

Decision No. 11921

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the matter of the application)
of the City of Venice for a permit)
to cross the tracks of the Pacific)
Electric Railway Company between)
the lines of Dell Avenue extended)
across the tracks of said Pacific)
Electric Railway in the City of)
Venice.)

Application No. 8545.

C. W. Lyons, City Attorney by Arthur L. Veitch
for applicant.

C. W. Cornell, for Pacific Electric Railway.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application by the City of Venice for permission to construct Dell Avenue across the Venice Short Line of Pacific Electric Railway Company in the City of Venice.

A public hearing was held on this application in Venice, March 1, 1923, before Examiner Williams.

Although the application did not specify whether the City desired the proposed crossing at grade or otherwise, applicant stated at the hearing that it wished to amend the application so as to consider only the matter of the construction of a grade crossing at this point, it being the opinion of the applicant that it was financially impracticable to undertake a separation of grades.

Dell Avenue is a short street in the southerly portion of the City of Venice, extending approximately one-quarter mile southeasterly from the Venice Short Line of the Pacific Electric. It is however the only outlet for a considerable residential district lying to the southeast of the railroad. This district has a population of five hundred and the purpose of the proposed crossing is to extend Dell Avenue northwesterly to Mildred Avenue in order to give this district a direct outlet to the business section of Venice. It is now possible to gain an outlet to the east by travelling along Virginia Avenue to Washington Boulevard, but to reach the business district of Venice, the residents of this territory are now required to turn easterly from Dell Avenue onto Virginia Avenue, a street paralleling the railroad on its southerly side, and thence by the Speedway and this route is about two blocks longer in distance than that which would be available were Dell Avenue continued northwesterly to Mildred Avenue. The center of the business district of Venice is situated on Windward Avenue between the Trolleyway and the Speedway and it should be noted that in travelling on Virginia Avenue and the Speedway to reach this point it is not necessary to cross the Venice Short Line, whereas, if this traffic used the Dell Avenue crossing and the Mildred Avenue route to the business section it would have to cross this railroad twice.

The Venice Short Line is a very important and heavily travelled double track electric line over which are operated

from one hundred twenty-five to three hundred trains per day and the average speed at the point of the proposed crossing is approximately thirty-five miles per hour. The physical conditions at the point of the proposed crossing are unfavorable for a safe and satisfactory grade crossing, the railroad being about six feet above the pavement of Virginia Avenue with the result that it would be necessary to install a fifteen per cent grade of approach on the south side of the railroad and on the north side a grade of approach of approximately six per cent would be necessary. Although the view at present is obstructed upon one corner only, the very steep grades of approach would make this crossing unusually hazardous.

Dell Avenue is essentially a street serving a local interest and is not a part of a through highway system. There would unquestionably be a real convenience to the local residents afforded to the construction of this crossing. It would benefit approximately two hundred eighty-five lots in the residential district south of the railroad, a large proportion of which are now actually built upon with residences. But in view of the unusual hazard involved in a grade crossing at this point, when considered with the fact that a reasonable outlet is now available to the district, we are convinced that the construction and maintenance of a grade crossing at this point would be against the public interest and that this application should be denied.

O R D E R

The City of Venice having made application for permission to construct Dell Avenue at grade across the tracks of Pacific Electric Railway Company, a public hearing having been held, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT, that public convenience and necessity do not require the establishment of a grade crossing at Dell Avenue over the tracks of Pacific Electric Railway Company, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the above entitled application be and it is hereby denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of ~~March~~ ^{April}, 1923.

C. Seaman
H. H. Dunning
Dwight Martin

Commissioners.