

Decision No. 14017

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application)
of the West Coast Transit Company,)
a corporation, for permission to)
increase one-way passenger fares)
and commutation fares between)
Santa Rosa and Healdsburg and the)
intermediate points.)

APPLICATION NO. 10722

C.A.Beck, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application filed January 9, 1925 by Dunham Stage Lines, A. Dunham, owner, changed May 9, 1925 by a supplemental application substituting the West Coast Transit Company, a corporation, as applicant, for authority under the statute to increase the one-way and commutation fares between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg and the intermediate points, as set forth in amended Exhibit "A", attached to and made a part of the application.

Since May 2, 1925 the line has been operated by West Coast Transit Company under authority of a transfer given in Decision No. 14837, Application No. 11017. By a supplemental application filed May 9, 1925, West Coast Transit Company, a corporation, was substituted as the applicant in the place and stead of the Dunham Stage Lines.

The proposed one-way fares are based on a rate of approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per mile and result in increases between certain points of from 5 to 10 cents. The proposed thirty and sixty ride commutation fares will be good for ninety days from date of purchase and base one-half the charge for a similar number of one-way fares.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Geary May 26, 1925 and the case having been submitted is now ready for an opinion and order.

A number of exhibits were introduced, setting forth the financial condition of the company, its capital investment, a travel check of the number of passengers carried between all points, and details of the running schedules and the operations.

For the period July 1 to December 31, 1924 (Exhibit No. 1) there was an operating loss of \$1752.47.

Since the present owners, West Coast Transit Company, took over the properties new and better equipment has been installed and the running schedules improved. Three new busses, having a value of \$16,000.00, with respective capacities for 26, 18 and 15 passengers, are now in operation.

Exhibit No. 5 shows that for the six months ending December 31, 1924 the operating revenue was \$.158 cents per car mile, the operating costs \$.195 cents per car mile, making an operating loss per car mile of \$.037 cents.

The Chambers of Commerce of Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, in written communications, admitted as exhibits, advised they had investigated the financial accounts of applicant and approved the fare changes proposed as necessary for continual operation of satisfactory service. There were no appearances in opposition, although notice of the hearing was mailed to interested parties.

From the facts developed it is manifest applicant should

be given the relief sought.

We conclude and find, in view of the circumstances of record in the proceeding, that the present one-way fares and the commutation fares between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg and the intermediate points are unjust, unreasonable and insufficient and that the just and reasonable fares are those set forth in Exhibit "A" attached to and made a part of the application.

The applicant should be required to submit to the Commission on or before the twentieth (20th) day of each month, for a period of six (6) months, a statement showing the number of passengers handled at all points between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, the earnings and expenses. The revenue and expenses should be compiled in conformity with the Commission's order of January 1, 1922, Uniform Classification of Accounts.

O R D E R

This application having been duly heard and submitted by the parties, full investigation of the matters and things involved having been had and basing this order on the findings of fact and conclusions contained in the opinion, which said opinion is hereby referred to and made a part hereof,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that West Coast Transit Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized to establish within twenty (20) days from the date hereof the one-way and commutation fares applying between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg and the intermediate

points, as set forth in Exhibit "A", attached to and made a part of the application.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that West Coast Transit Company, a corporation, file with this Commission on or before the twentieth (20th) day of each month, for a period of six (6) months, beginning with the first day of the month after the new rates become effective, a statement showing the number of passengers handled at all points between Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, the earnings and expenses. The revenue and expenses should be compiled in conformity with the Commission's order effective January 1, 1922, Uniform Classification of Accounts.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 1st day of June, 1925.

H. R. Brundage

C. L. Seaver

George D. Ingham

Commissioners.