

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 1385

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 the COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES for order)
 authorizing Grade Crossing over)
 the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's) Application No. 14158
 Right of Way at Manchester Avenue in)
 said County.)

S. V. O. Prichard, Deputy County Counsel,
 for applicant.

C. W. Cornell, for Southern Pacific Company.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The County of Los Angeles has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the construction of Manchester Avenue, renamed Firestone Boulevard, at grade across the San Pedro branch of Southern Pacific Company, near the station of Firestone Park, County of Los Angeles, California.

A public hearing on this application was conducted by Examiner Handford at Los Angeles on January 27, 1928, at which time the matter was duly submitted.

Manchester Avenue, to the west of the railroad, is an old established street and serves as a connection to Alameda Street which runs parallel and adjacent to the west right of way line of the railroad. Alameda Street is a very heavily traveled highway between Los Angeles and San Pedro. The County of Los Angeles has recently graded and paved an extension to Manchester Avenue, east from the railroad, with an ultimate destination at the Orange County line. The

easterly extension is located a considerable distance south from Manchester Avenue, west of the railroad, and it is proposed to connect the two portions of the Avenue with the grade crossing applied for in connection with a curved diagonal street between Alameda Street at the crossing and Manchester Avenue west. When Manchester Avenue is constructed through to the Orange County line it is expected to be a heavily traveled way.

At the present time the Firestone Tire Company is constructing a plant, for the manufacture of automobile tires, east of the railroad and north of Manchester Avenue. During the construction of this plant about two hundred men are employed and when it goes into operation it is expected that from 1,000 to 1,500 men will be employed. It was testified that the opening of the crossing was an urgent need not only for workmen but also for the delivery of construction supplies by auto truck. Entrance can be made to the plant by way of Long Beach Boulevard from one-quarter to one-half mile east of Alameda Street, but this is a circuitous route. There is now located at the point of proposed crossing a private crossing which is used to a considerable extent by vehicles from the Firestone plant.

The railroad operates three freight trains each way per day over the San Pedro Branch, and due to the location of a wye track turnout immediately north of the proposed crossing there will be, in addition, a considerable number of switching moves over the crossing. For the protection of this crossing it was agreed that an automatic flagman should be installed. The Southern Pacific Company offered no objection to the establishment of the proposed crossing.

The Los Angeles County Grade Crossing Committee offered no objection to the construction of the crossing provided that in two and one-half years the grades of the railroad and Alameda

Street be separated from that of Manchester Avenue. On account of the heavy vehicular travel on Alameda Street and the expected heavy travel on Manchester Avenue, the greatest need for grade separation will be between these two streets rather than between the railroad and Manchester Avenue.

It appears that public convenience and necessity require the establishment of the proposed crossing.

The applicant and the railroad company stipulated that the division of cost of construction, maintenance and protection be in accordance with an agreement being worked out by them, copy of said agreement to be sent to the Commission when executed.

It therefore appears that this application should be granted.

O R D E R

The County of Los Angeles, through its County Counsel, having made application for permission to construct Manchester Avenue, renamed Firestone Boulevard, at grade across the track of the San Pedro branch of Southern Pacific Company, a public hearing having been held, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be and it is hereby granted to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, to construct Manchester Avenue, renamed Firestone Boulevard, at grade across the track of the San Pedro Branch of Southern Pacific Company at the location hereinafter particularly described and as shown on map (Exhibit 1) filed in this proceeding.

Description of Crossing.

That portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company's right of way, as shown on map of the Burkhard Home Tract, recorded in Book 5, page 100 of maps, records of Los Angeles County, within a strip of land 100 feet wide, the southerly line of which is parallel with and 100 feet southerly, measured at right angles, from the southerly line of that certain parcel of land described in deed to the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, recorded in Book 6759, page 149, Official Records of said county.

Excepting therefrom any portion thereof within Alameda Street of Record.

The above crossing shall be identified as Crossing No. B.G.-489.5.

Said crossing shall be constructed subject to the following conditions:

(1) Within ninety (90) days from the date of this order applicant shall file with this Commission certified copy or copies of agreement or agreements covering the entire cost of construction, maintenance and protection of said crossing. In the event that such an agreement cannot be reached by the interested parties this Commission shall assess the above mentioned costs by supplemental order.

(2) The crossing shall be constructed with a width of not less than fifty (50) feet nor more than one-hundred feet, at an angle of sixty-one degrees and forty minutes (61° 40') to the railroad and with grades of approach not greater than three (3) per cent; shall be constructed equal or superior to Standard No. 3 as specified in General Order No. 72 of this Commission; shall be protected by a crossing sign in accordance with Standard No. 1 of this Commission's General Order No. 75, and shall in every be made suitable for the passage thereon of vehicles and other road traffic.

(3) An automatic flagman shall be installed and maintained for the protection of said crossing. Said automatic flagman shall be of a type and installed in accordance with Standard No. 3 of this Commission's General Order No. 75.

(4) Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the completion of the installation of said crossing.

(5) If said crossing shall not have been installed within one year from the date of this order, the authorization herein granted shall then lapse and become void, unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

(6) The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders relative to the location, construction, operation, maintenance and protection of said crossing as to it may seem right and proper and to revoke its permission if, in its judgment, the public convenience and necessity demand such action.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of February, 1928.

Ed. J. ...

Ernest ...

Thos. J. ...

M. J. ...
 Commissioners.