

Decision No. 90536

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the )  
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES for order author- )  
 izing a grade crossing of the Pacific ) Application  
 Electric Railway Company's right of way ) No. 15080  
 on 62nd Street. )

ORIGINAL

Gordon Boller, Deputy County Counsel,  
 for Applicant.  
 John R. Berryman, Jr., for Los Angeles County  
 Grade Crossing Committee, Protestant,  
 C. W. Cornell, for Pacific Electric Railway  
 Company, Protestant.

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 a grade crossing over the Pacific Electric Railway Company's Los Angeles-Long Beach main line at 62nd Street.

was conducted

A public hearing/on this application by Examiner Handford at Los Angeles, the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

The railway involved is the four-track, high speed interurban line of Pacific Electric between Los Angeles and Watts which carries thousands of passengers daily between Los Angeles and Long Beach, San Pedro, Redondo, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and a number of intermediate cities.

Sixty-second Street is a short east and west street located south of Slauson Avenue. The nearest public crossing to the north is at 60th Street, 650 feet distant, and to the south at Merrill Avenue, a distance also of 650 feet. Sixty-second Street extends two blocks to the east of the railroad and approximately four blocks to the west.

The applicant presented ten witnesses who own property along or near 62nd Street in the vicinity of the proposed crossing. These witnesses testified that there was a need for the proposed crossing in order to stabilize property value and to provide a convenient means of gaining access from one side of the railroad to the other. C. F. Cooley, Assistant Road Commissioner of Los Angeles County, testified that the opening of this crossing would add to the convenience of residents in the immediate vicinity of the crossing.

The granting of the application was protested by the Los Angeles County Grade Crossing Committee and Pacific Electric Railway Company.

The record shows that the Los Angeles County Grade Crossing Committee, after a careful survey of conditions at this point, recommends that the crossing be denied, because of the lack of any showing of general public necessity for its opening. It is admitted that there will be some local benefit as a result of the proposed opening, but it is contended that local benefits should not rule in favor of the public hazard that would be created by the additional crossing over this high speed line.

Pacific Electric Railway, through its Superintendent and Engineer, presented evidence showing the large movement of trains over its line, there being approximately 700 trains daily over this crossing, varying in length from one to many cars. The present permissible speed is sixty miles per hour in this vicinity. An increase in the number of crossings on this line will tend to reduce the speed of train operation, which fact, on a railroad of this importance, would be a matter of grade public concern.

After careful consideration of all the evidence in this proceeding and having in mind the fact that the proposed crossing would be of local benefit only; that its construction would result in inconvenience to a considerable proportion of the public, and

would result in additional hazard due to the construction of an additional grade crossing, we are of the opinion that public convenience and necessity do not require the construction of the crossing at grade as requested.

O R D E R

The County of Los Angeles having made application for authority to construct a grade crossing over the Pacific Electric Railway Company's right of way at 62nd Street, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been duly submitted and being now ready for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby finds that public convenience and necessity do not require the construction of the crossing as requested, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application herein be, and the same is hereby denied.

The effective date of this order is hereby fixed as twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16 day of December, 1928.

Leon Whitall  
Chairman

Thos. J. Lewis

W. J. Carr  
COMMISSIONERS.