

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 5517

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BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of protection for)
railroad crossing at First Avenue)
and Santa Clara Street in the City)
of Arcadia, California.)
.....

Case No. 1227

M. W. Reed for The Atchison, Topeka
and Santa Fe Railway Company.
George D. Squires for Southern Paci-
fic Company.
Walter F. Dunn for City of Arcadia.

GORDON, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N

This case is an outgrowth of Grade Crossing Report No. 329 made by the Commission's engineering department in connection with the state-wide investigation of grade crossings. In that report certain recommendations were made concerning the protection of the crossings of the Southern Pacific Company and The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company with First Avenue and Santa Cruz Street in the City of Arcadia.

At the present time the Santa Fe crossing is protected by an automatic flagman on the side of the street. This flagman does not ring on the approach of Southern Pacific trains, creating a dangerous condition because strangers who use the highway are inclined to feel that their approach to the crossing is safe as long as the automatic flagman is not in motion, while such is not the case.

The railroad companies both agreed that some better

method of protection should be provided but were unable to get together and decide what it should be, in a manner which would meet with the approval of our engineering department. This case was consequently instituted by the Commission and set for a formal hearing, which was held on June 4 at Arcadia.

There seems to be no doubt that the best means of protecting this crossing is by an automatic flagman located in the center of the street. This had been suggested before but the Commission's engineering department had been unofficially advised that the Board of Trustees of the City of Arcadia had objected to it. When the matter was brought up at the hearing it developed that the suggestion had never officially been brought before the Board of Trustees, and the City Attorney undertook to see that it was officially referred to it and to advise the Commission of the city's attitude.

We are now in receipt of a letter stating that the Board of Trustees has no objection to the placing of an automatic flagman in the center of the street, and the Commission can order the most efficient form of protection without in any way disposing of the use of the streets in Arcadia against the wishes of the Board of Trustees.

I recommend the following form of order.

O R D E R.

The Commission having instituted this case on its own motion, and a public hearing having been held, and it appearing that the crossings above referred to should be protected by an automatic flagman connected with both railroads and located in the center of the street;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company and the Southern Pacific Company be and the same hereby are ordered to install an automatic flagman in the center of First Avenue, within three months from the date of this order, said flagman to be connected with the tracks of both companies.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, That the expense of installing and maintaining this flagman shall be borne by the two companies in a manner that may be agreed upon by them, providing, however, that if they are unable to agree the Commission will issue a supplemental order concerning it.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of June, 1918.

Erwin V. Engstrom

H. D. Kowland

Alfred Gordon

Frank R. Poling

Commissioners.