

Decision No. 34580

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION of)
W. B. McLERAN, doing business as)
McLERAN TRANSIT CO., for certificate)
of public convenience and necessity)
to operate as common carrier, a school)
bus service located in the City of Los)
Angeles and Los Angeles County, Cali-)
fornia, for the schools, namely:)
Cathedral Chapel School, located at)
8th and Cochran St. and Blessed)
Sacrament School, 6661 Sunset Blvd.,)
Hollywood, California.)

Application No. 24383

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

W. B. McLeran, doing business as McLeran Transit Co., seeks permission to establish passenger stage service as a common carrier for the transportation of school children to and from the Cathedral Chapel School and the Blessed Sacrament School in the city and county of Los Angeles during the school year period beginning each year on September 10 and ending the following June 15.

The conditions relied upon by applicant as justification for the granting of the certificate of public convenience and necessity sought herein as set forth in the application may be summarized briefly as follows:

During the past few years traffic hazards in the city of Los Angeles have increased to a point where parents do not feel safe in permitting their children to cross streets and boulevards to walk to school. Some 75 per cent of the school children now carried on school busses in the city of Los Angeles are between the ages of 5 and 10 years and are not competent to

undertake these hazards alone. For several years applicant has furnished from one to three busses to the Cathedral Chapel School (located at 8th and Cochran Streets) and one bus to the Blessed Sacrament School (located at 6661 Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood) under an arrangement whereby students of grammar school age register for and use the applicant's bus service to said schools and the teachers collect a transportation fee at the end of each month based upon a prorate of the actual cost of service. In some instances the schools contribute a share of the cost for children who are unable to pay.

The bus operation proposed by the applicant would start at 7:30 A.M. each school day, make some 30 or 40 stops at various street corners or addresses to pick up children, and arrive at the schools at 8:45 A.M. In the afternoon the children would be picked up at the schools and returned to their homes over the same route. The busses would travel at an estimated speed of approximately 15 miles per hour.

The boundaries within which the proposed service would be conducted, as described in the application, are as follows:

Cathedral Chapel School to be served by a bus operating within the boundaries of Melrose Avenue on the north, Western Avenue on the East, Pico Boulevard on the south and Robertson Boulevard on the west.

Blessed Sacrament School to be served by a bus operating within the boundaries of Franklin Boulevard on the north, Western Avenue on the East, Melrose Avenue on the south and Robertson Boulevard on the west.

Service to and from the Cathedral Chapel School contemplates one morning schedule and three afternoon schedules, while the Blessed Sacrament School would be served by one morning and one afternoon schedule.

The equipment sought to be operated by the applicant consists of standard school bus vehicles already owned by him and more recently operated in transporting school children between Los Angeles and Big Pines Camp. ⁽¹⁾ The proposed minimum fare is \$3.50 per month per child based upon an average of two rides per day, five days per week, on an average of 21 school days per month. This fare would cover the cost of bus operation at 20 cents per mile and return a minimum revenue of approximately \$150 per month. The service contemplates transportation of the children between the nearest corner adjacent to their places of residence and the school each day.

Attached to the application are letters addressed to the Commission from the administrative heads of the two schools in question urging that the application be granted in view of traffic hazards currently existing in the neighborhoods adjacent to the schools.

The Los Angeles Railway Corporation which now serves the general public in the territory here involved has advised the Commission in writing that it has no objection to the granting of the authority sought, provided applicant restricts his service to carrying children actually attending the two designated schools and that he further refrain from carrying adult passengers or adult students. In response to this suggestion applicant has informed the Commission by letter that the proposed restrictions are entirely agreeable to him and that he does not intend to make his service competitive in any respect with the

(1) By Decision No. 34359 of July 19, 1941 in Application No. 24171, the applicant was authorized to perform passenger stage service between Los Angeles, on the one hand, and Big Pines Camp (Los Angeles County recreational area), on the other hand, primarily for the transportation of school children.

existing service of the Los Angeles Railway Corporation.

From the statements in the application together with matters described in exhibits attached thereto, it appears that public convenience and necessity require the establishment of the proposed school bus service to the two schools within the designated areas which appear to encompass a substantial portion of Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and adjacent sections of Los Angeles County. Due to the nature of the service and the densely populated area affected, it is unnecessary to designate specific streets or routes over which the operation should be conducted.

The proposed service will perhaps be susceptible of greater benefits to the public if specific routes are omitted, and applicant is permitted to select the routes most adaptable to efficient operation and convenient to the public.

This does not appear to be a matter in which a public hearing is necessary. No service of the character here proposed is being operated at the present time by any public carrier, nor will the service of street railways be competitively affected. Moreover, the Los Angeles Railway Corporation has advised the Commission that it has no objection to the granting of the authority sought.

The Commission is of the opinion and finds that public convenience and necessity justify and require the establishment and operation by W. B. McLeran, doing business as McLeran Transit Co., of a passenger stage service for the transportation of school children to and from the Cathedral Chapel School located at 8th and Cochran Streets, and the Blessed Sacrament School located at 6661 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, in the city and county of Los Angeles during the school period each year beginning approximately September 10 and ending the following June 15. The application will be granted.

O R D E R

Based upon the foregoing opinion and the Commission's finding that public convenience and necessity so require,

IT IS ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it is hereby granted to W. B. McLeran, doing business as McLeran Transit Co., authorizing him to operate as a passenger stage corporation, as that term is defined by Section 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Public Utilities Act, for the transportation of school children to and from the Cathedral Chapel School located at 8th and Cochran Streets, and the Blessed Sacrament School located at 6661 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, in the City and County of Los Angeles, subject to the conditions hereinafter set forth.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that W. B. McLeran, doing business as McLeran Transit Co., in performing the school bus service authorized under the foregoing certificate, shall

1. Conduct said operations within the following boundaries:
 - (a) Cathedral Chapel School within the boundaries of Melrose Avenue on the north, Western Avenue on the east, Pico Boulevard on the south and Robertson Boulevard on the west.
 - (b) Blessed Sacrament School within the boundaries of Franklin Avenue on the north, Western Avenue on the east and Melrose Avenue on the south and Robertson Boulevard on the west.
2. Conduct said operation each year between September 10 and June 15 of the following year.
3. Transport only school children attending the Cathedral Chapel School or Blessed Sacrament School. Applicant may not transport adult passengers nor adult students under the authority granted herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that W. B. McLeran, doing business as McLeran Transit Co., shall comply with the following service regulations:

