

Decision No. 35965

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the)
LOS ANGELES RAILWAY CORPORATION for)
permission to abandon trackage, facilities)
and service heretofore devoted to the)
carrying of street railway passengers)
over Fountain Avenue between the east)
line of Vermont Avenue and the inter-)
section of Edgemont Street in the city)
of Los Angeles.)

Application
No. 25004

MAX EDDY UTT, for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Los Angeles Railway Corporation, by its amended application as above numbered, requests authority to temporarily discontinue passenger transportation service on its "A" Rail Line, extending from the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Vermont Avenue to the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Edgemont Street, a distance of four blocks. The application recites that the discontinuance is only for the duration of the war emergency, and until such time as applicant can substitute motor coach service for rail service on its entire "A" Rail Line.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Cannon at Los Angeles on October 20, 1942.

The operation in question is conducted in both directions over a single track line. Abandonment was heretofore authorized by the Commission ⁽¹⁾ but was conditioned on the making of

(1) Decision No. 33984, dated March 11, 1941.

certain motor coach substitutions, which applicant has been unable to make by reason of certain orders of the Office of Defense Transportation.

Applicant alleges that the track in question is in bad condition and that the cost of reconstruction will approximate \$10,975; that by reason of war conditions it is impossible to procure the necessary rails and fittings for such reconstruction and repairs; and that operation over the route is the subject of complaint from a hospital in the vicinity.

It appears that operation over the trackage in question is hazardous. The Chief Engineer of the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation of the City of Los Angeles has filed a report with that Board in which he states that the track and pavement west of Vermont Avenue are in extremely poor condition, and that the light rails are in such condition that, if operation is to be continued, reconstruction is necessary. This will entail an expense which would scarcely be justified if the line is to be subsequently equipped for the operation of motor coaches. If service is terminated at Vermont Avenue, the distances to the car line will be increased for approximately 600 people per day, if they continue to use the "A" line. Half of these would board or leave between Vermont and Edgemont, so that walking distance for them would be increased by less than one-quarter mile. All of the passengers now carried by the line sought to be discontinued are within one-quarter mile of other services. The Los Angeles Motor Coach and Pacific Electric offer service from this area to the Los Angeles business district, though both of them have a prevailing fare of 10 cents as compared to 7 cents on the "A" line.

The record shows applicant is in the position of being unable to obtain the materials necessary to repair the line, which extends for a distance of only 1341 feet west from Vermont Street, because of war priorities and that continued operation over the rails is dangerous. We are of the opinion, therefore, that the present service should be temporarily discontinued, and the order will so provide.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Los Angeles Railway Corporation is authorized to discontinue operation, until further order of this Commission, of street railway service on that portion of its "A" Rail Line commencing at the east side of the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Vermont Avenue and proceeding thence westerly over Fountain Avenue to the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Edgemont Street, This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall give the public at least ten (10) days' notice of the discontinuance authorized herein by posting notices on all coaches operating on the line involved and at all stations affected.
2. Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the ten day period hereinabove referred to, advise the Commission in writing of the discontinuance herein authorized and of compliance with the conditions thereof.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 18th day of November, 1942.

Ray Riley
G. J. Baker
Francis R. Havens
Richard Harris
COMMISSIONERS