

Decision No. 37730

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
PACIFIC GREYHOUND LINES for a certifi-)
cate of public convenience and ne-)
cessity authorizing the transportation)
of passengers, baggage and express be-)
tween Palo Alto and Redwood City, over)
Middlefield Road as an alternate route.)

ORIGINAL

Application No. 25879

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER DENYING REHEARING

The town of Atherton, city of Redwood City and several other protestants in the above proceeding seek rehearing of Decision No. 37086, which authorized Pacific Greyhound Lines to operate between Redwood City and Palo Alto via Middlefield Road, a secondary two-lane road which lies between and generally parallels El Camino Real and Bayshore Highway. Dibble General Hospital is a new Army hospital on Middlefield Road near Palo Alto. The application was based primarily upon an asserted need for a through service to and from the Hospital, Pacific Greyhound Lines was permitted to carry passengers via Middlefield Road and (a) to or from the Hospital when traveling to or from points southerly of Palo Alto or to or from points northerly of Redwood City, and (b) when traveling between its Redwood City and Palo Alto depots.

Collectively, petitioners allege that operation over Middlefield Road is hazardous and a menace to school children; that no service would be provided to and from Gate No. 2 of the Hospital on Ravenswood Avenue; that operation over Ravenswood Avenue would be a better and safer route; and that no finding was made justifying the use of Middlefield Road.

As stated in Decision No. 37086, the record herein is not convincing that hazards of an unreasonable nature to local residents of Middlefield Road would be created by the proposed operations over such road. Operation over Ravenswood Avenue, authorization for which was not requested, would to some extent impair applicant's local service along El Camino Real between Redwood City and the intersection of Ravenswood Avenue. This impairment would occur because the schedules serving Dibble Hospital would be second sections only and would pass up local passengers along El Camino Real, thereby creating cause for complaint. Moreover, the use of Ravenswood Avenue would require southbound schedules along El Camino Real to make a left-hand turn across northbound traffic and thence across the main double tracks of Southern Pacific Company, at a crossing which has less protection than the proposed route. ⁽¹⁾ The frequency of train operation at this intersection is such as to constitute an ever present danger to vehicular traffic. On the other hand, in using Middlefield Road, equipment would use the Southern Pacific Company's crossing at Redwood City, which crossing has much superior protection than the Ravenswood crossing. ⁽²⁾ In our opinion this hazard alone is sufficient to justify the use of Middlefield Road, instead of the more hazardous rail crossing on Ravenswood Avenue. With respect to petitioners' allegation that no service would be provided at Gate No. 2 of the Hospital on Ravenswood Avenue, it was shown that such

(1) The crossing records of the Commission show that the crossing of Ravenswood Avenue over the tracks of Southern Pacific Company in Menlo Park is protected by two automatically controlled wigwag signals.

(2) The crossing records of the Commission show that the crossing of Broadway over the Southern Pacific Company tracks in Redwood City is protected by two rotating stop banner flashlight signals manually controlled by flagmen from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, and automatically controlled from 12:01 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Said signals are equipped with second train indicator.

gate was only approximately .0.3 of a mile from Middlefield Road. The Commanding Officer of the Hospital testified he was not interested in the routes as long as service was provided to and from the Hospital.

The Commission has considered the allegations of the petition for rehearing, and being of the opinion that no good cause appears for the granting of a rehearing,

IT IS ORDERED that rehearing is hereby denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of March, 1945.

Harold Anderson
Justus Z. Craven
Richard Kachig
Frank W. Carr
James H. Russell
COMMISSIONERS