

Decision No. 43982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
	)	
LOS ANGELES TRANSIT LINES	)	
	)	Application No. 30890
for authority to discontinue human	)	
flagmen at crossings with Union	)	
Pacific Railroad Company - Santa Fe	)	
Avenue at Butte Street and San	)	
Fernando Road at Humboldt Street,	)	
City of Los Angeles.	)	

O P I N I O N

By the above-numbered application Los Angeles Transit Lines seeks authority to discontinue human flagmen at the crossing of applicant's tracks with those of Union Pacific Railroad Company at each of the following locations in the City of Los Angeles, California:

- (a) Crossing No. 3-1.5-C, Santa Fe Avenue at Butte Street
- (b) Crossing No. 3B-2.12, San Fernando Road at Humboldt Street

Crossing No. 3-1.5-C, located at Santa Fe Avenue and Butte Street, is protected by manually operated gates 24 hours a day and, in addition, Los Angeles Transit Lines provides human flagman protection between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily. Protection by the manually operated gates will continue unchanged if authorization is granted to discontinue the human flagman. The crossing involved was originally established under an agreement dated April 1, 1906, between

Los Angeles Railway Company, now Los Angeles Transit Lines, and the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad Company, now Union Pacific Railroad Company, under which agreement applicant was not required to maintain human flagmen. The operation of this crossing still continues under said agreement. Applicant has elected, however, to maintain human flagmen for a number of years.

Crossing No. 3B-2.12, located at San Fernando Road and Humboldt Street, is protected by two Standard No. 3 wigwag signals (General Order No. 75-B) and two advance warning signs, all of which are properly located. The crossing was originally established under an agreement dated February 17, 1904, between the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad Company, now operated by Union Pacific Railroad Company, and the Los Angeles Railway Company, now Los Angeles Transit Lines. By the provisions of this agreement, applicant was required to flag its streetcar movements through the crossing, and human flagmen are on duty from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.

Applicant and Union Pacific Railroad Company have now entered into tentative agreements, subject to the approval of this Commission, for the removal of human flagmen at both of the above crossings. The arrangement at Santa Fe Avenue and Butte Street (No. 3-1.5-C) is evidenced by a letter dated October 31, 1949, from Union Pacific Railroad Company, a copy of which is attached to the application and designated Exhibit "A". The arrangement relative to the proposed discontinuance of human flagmen at San Fernando Road and Humboldt Street (No. 3B-2.12) is evidenced by a supplementary agreement dated

November 9, 1949, between applicant and Union Pacific Railroad Company, copy of which is also attached to the application and designated as Exhibit "B".

Surveys of the two crossings involved indicate that the existing crossing protection, other than the human flagmen, is adequate to secure the safety of the public. It appears that a public hearing is not necessary and that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

Application having been made in the above-entitled matter, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that Los Angeles Transit Lines is hereby authorized to discontinue the human flagmen at the crossings of its tracks with those of Union Pacific Railroad Company at the following locations in the City of Los Angeles, California:

- (a) Santa Fe Avenue at Butte Street (Crossing No. 3-1.5-C)
- (b) San Fernando Road at Humboldt Street (Crossing No. 3B-2.12)

The authority herein granted is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Applicant shall notify the Commission and the Union Pacific Railroad Company at least ten (10) days prior to the date of discontinuance of the human flagmen.
- (2) Prior to passing over either of the crossings referred to herein, applicant shall cause each of its cars to be brought to a full stop at a point not less than 10 feet nor more than 50 feet from the nearest rail of the crossing,

and while so stopped the operator shall listen and look in both directions along the track for any approaching locomotive, train, or other vehicle using the rails, before traversing the crossing.

- (3) Applicant shall take all necessary steps to insure that operating personnel are properly instructed prior to the effective date of removal of the human flagmen, and by appropriate bulletin, or otherwise, notify them of any operating changes involved.

The Commission reserves the right to make such further orders in this matter as to it may seem right and proper, and to revoke the authority herein granted if public safety should so require.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco California, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1950.

*R. T. [Signature]*  
*Justin J. [Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*Harold [Signature]*

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Kenneth Potter, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.