

Decision No. 44989

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC GREYHOUND LINES)
for authority to operate its bus service)
between Dunnigan and Vacaville on a)
summer-season basis.)

Application No. 31820.

O P I N I O N

ORIGINAL

In this proceeding Pacific Greyhound Lines requests authority to establish its passenger stage service between Dunnigan and Vacaville, via Winters, over California State Highway No. 21, on a summer-season basis between the approximate dates of June 10 and September 10 of each year.

On October 1, 1946, the Commission issued its Decision No. 39442, granting a certificate to applicant to operate between Winters and Vacaville, over California State Highway No. 21. On February 10, 1948, the Commission issued its Decision No. 41209 authorizing applicant to extend the aforesaid service from Winters to Dunnigan over California State Highway No. 21. Both of these certificates authorized year around service.

In justification for the relief sought, it is stated that, after commencement of the operation between Vacaville and Winters in 1946, it was found that the service developed an average gross passenger revenue of less than 5¢ per bus mile. Applicant believed that by extending this service from Winters to Dunnigan and operating the entire service between Vacaville and Dunnigan by diversion of through interstate buses between San Francisco and Oregon points, the service over the route could be sustained. Such an effort to so maintain this service was made after receiving the authority for the extension from Winters to Dunnigan, in 1948.

However, applicant learned that the Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, had imposed a restricted weight limit applicable to the Winters-Dunnigan portion of California State Highway No. 21, which was far below the weight of any bus of applicant. This restricted weight limit was applicable during the wet weather season and continued until dry weather was assured.

In August, 1948, applicant asserts that it was advised by said Division of Highways that this highway would have the same weight restriction re-imposed for the winter season of 1948-1949, with the possibility that for the winter season of 1949-1950 there would be sufficient road repair to render needless further imposition of the weight restriction. However, the road repairs were not completed, and during the 1949-1950 season said highway was posted by the Division of Highways with signs reading, "LOAD LIMIT 8 TONS GROSS". Applicant has been informed that the same highway will be made subject to the same weight restriction for the winter season 1950-1951, depending upon the commencement of fall rains.

As further justification for the authority sought, applicant states that because of its inability to operate between Winters and Dunnigan over California State Highway No. 21 during the winter period, a service between Vacaville and Winters cannot be operated by diversion of through interstate buses but must be operated with a "stub" service beginning and ending at Winters. The average passenger revenue of this "stub" service has constantly been less than 5¢ per bus mile, in consequence of which, during February, 1950, applicant reduced the "stub" service from a daily or daily except Sunday service to Saturday service only, the revenue of which is less than the driver's wages. For the foregoing reasons, applicant seeks authority to operate the entire route between

Dunnigan and Vacaville during the summer season only, to continue as long as it is impossible to provide service by diversion of its through buses operating between points west of Vacaville and points north of Dunnigan.

Considering all of the circumstances set forth by applicant in the situation as outlined in this application, we believe that it is in the public interest to permit applicant to provide service over California State Highway No. 21 between Vacaville and Dunnigan during the summer season only, and until such time as the highway between Vacaville and Dunnigan, via Winters, is improved to a standard that will permit applicant to operate its equipment over that route which is used in its through service between points north of Dunnigan and points west of Vacaville. Therefore, the application will be granted. It appears that a public hearing is not necessary in this matter.

O R D E R

An application therefor having been filed, and good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That passenger stage service performed by Pacific Greyhound Lines between Vacaville and Dunnigan and intermediate points via Winters, as authorized by Decision No. 39442 in Application No. 26787 and Decision No. 41209 in Application No. 28927, may be operated seasonally between the approximate dates of June 10 and September 10

of each year until such time as California State Highway No. 21 between Winters and Dunnigan is improved to a standard that will permit operations thereover by applicant's regular equipment.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of November, 1950.

R. F. [Signature]
Justin F. [Signature]
[Signature]
Harold P. [Signature]
[Signature]
COMMISSIONERS