

ORIGINALDecision No. 46451

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 Asbury Rapid Transit System for)
 Authority to re-route, extend and)
 abandon certain of its presently)
 authorized services for the trans-)
 portation of passengers, baggage)
 and express on the following lines:)
 San Fernando-U. S. Veterans Hospital,) Application No. 32603
 and San Fernando-Olive View)
 Sanatorium; that portion of its)
 Sunland-Sun Valley (Roscoe)-North)
 Hollywood line between Sunland and)
 Sun Valley; and North Hollywood-)
 Warner Bros. Studio.)

Don L. Campbell and Rodney Williams for applicant.
C. L. Daniel for Sunland-Shadow Hills Civic Association of Sunland
 as protestant. Neville R. Lewis for City of San Fernando, Harman
R. Bennett for City of Burbank, Paul R. Garver for F. M. Chubb
 and the Board of Public Utilities of Transportation of the City
 of Los Angeles, G. K. Patterson for Sunland Chamber of Commerce,
 interested parties.

O P I N I O N

By this application Asbury Rapid Transit System
 primarily seeks authority to abandon three portions of routes
 of its authorized services in San Fernando Valley^{1/}. The
 extension and rerouting referred to deal only with applicant's
 proposal to combine its San Fernando-Olive View Hospital line

^{1/} Decision No. 13526 as amended, dated May 7, 1924, on
 Application No. 9989; Decision No. 39061 as amended,
 dated June 11, 1946, on Application No. 27331; and
 Decision No. 31764, dated February 20, 1939, on
 Application No. 22229.

and its San Fernando-U. S. Veterans Hospital line by extending its authorized route between Olive View Sanitorium and the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Polk Street. The portions to be abandoned are:

1. Along San Fernando Road between Roxford Street and Maclay Street and along Roxford Street between San Fernando Road and Foothill Boulevard.

2. Between the intersection of Penrose Street and Sunland Boulevard and the intersection of Hillrose Street and Oro Vista Avenue along Sunland Boulevard, Foothill Boulevard and Oro Vista Avenue. Also along Hillrose Street and Sherman Grove Avenue between the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Sherman Grove Avenue and the intersection of Oro Vista Avenue and Hillrose Street.

3. Between the intersection of Chandler Boulevard and Lankershim Boulevard and Warner Bros. Studio on Olive Avenue in Burbank, California, over and along Lankershim Boulevard, Magnolia Boulevard, Cahuenga Boulevard, Riverside Drive and Pass Avenue. Rowland Avenue and Olive Avenue are traversed by this line but are also used in other operations.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Rowe at San Fernando on October 26, 1951, at which time evidence both oral and documentary was adduced and the matter was duly submitted for decision.

Notice of the hearing and of the proposed abandonments was duly published in a newspaper of general circulation in San Fernando and a newspaper of general circulation in Los Angeles and posted in the company equipment, in the terminals

and along the routes to be abandoned. The posting was for ten days immediately before the hearing and the publication in the San Fernando newspaper, a weekly publication, was made on October 25, 1951, and in the Los Angeles paper, a daily newspaper, on October 22, 23 and 24, 1951.

Applicant's witnesses testified that most of the passengers using the present Olive View Sanitorium service from San Fernando go all the way to the Sanitorium. Under the proposal these persons will be able to go by applicant's buses to this destination by the revised route. Those persons presently using applicant's service along San Fernando Road can avail themselves of the local service along that highway presently offered by Continental Trailways and by Greyhound. The only portion of this route which will be left without service by the abandonment will be along Roxford Street between San Fernando Road and Foothill Boulevard. For the seventeen months' period commencing with April, 1950, through August, 1951, the operation of the Olive View Line has shown a loss of approximately 15% per mile for the total of 67,520.9 miles operated. It is the opinion of applicant's witnesses that the combined lines to the U. S. Veterans Hospital and to Olive View Sanitorium can be made to at least meet out-of-pocket costs. According to their opinion no reasonable fare increase could make the present operation profitable. The few residents along Roxford Street who appeared in opposition testified to their individual inconvenience but offered no evidence contradictory to that of applicant regarding revenues which could be derived from the present operation. The resolution of the City Council of the City of

San Fernando expressed disapproval of the proposed abandonments of service but contained no facts to show that applicant should be required to continue an operation which is resulting in a substantial loss.

An even greater loss per mile is shown on the Sunland-North Hollywood line. There the total mileage operated during the same seventeen months' period was 154,077.4 and the revenue per mile has been 19.5¢ or more than 20¢ loss per mile as the company's system cost is slightly in excess of 40¢ per mile. The opposition to this abandonment took the form of testimony as to individual inconvenience of passengers in the Sunland area, and statements of population in the area, as to the need for bus service to maintain real estate values, and comparisons with bus service in other areas particularly in the east. It was generally conceded that this portion of the line could not be made compensatory. The request on behalf of the Shadow-Hills-Sunland Civic Association that Commission action on the application be deferred for a year appears unreasonable in view of the continued and steady loss over this route and the absence of any evidence that conditions will improve as far as bus revenue is concerned.

There was no opposition expressed to the request to abandon the service between North Hollywood and Warner Bros. Studio. On September 12, 1951, a total of 68 passengers were carried over this line. The total mileage operated that day was 92.6 and the revenue per mile was \$.073. This line has never proved remunerative.

Upon full consideration of the record in this proceeding, it is found as a fact that the portions of routes sought to

be abandoned have not been profitable, but have been carried on at a substantial loss, and cannot be made profitable. The proposed route change appears to be justified by the facts of record and will be authorized.

O R D E R

Application as above entitled having been filed, a public hearing having been held, the Commission being fully advised in the premises and the matter being under submission,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the route descriptions added to Decision No. 13526, dated May 7, 1924, on Application No. 9989 of Original Stage Line, the predecessor of applicant herein, Asbury Rapid Transit System, by Decision No. 41331, dated March 16, 1948, on Application No. 28963 be, and such route descriptions hereby are amended to read as follows:

Commencing at Asbury Transit System's depot at 726 San Fernando Road in the City of San Fernando; thence via San Fernando Road, Wolfskill Street, Truman Street, Maclay Street, Seventh Street, Borden Avenue, Polk Street, Foothill Boulevard, to and through the grounds of the Olive View Sanitorium; Foothill Boulevard, Sayer Street to and through the grounds of U. S. Veterans Hospital; returning via Sayre Street, Foothill Boulevard, Polk Street, Borden Avenue, Seventh Street, Maclay Street, San Fernando Road, Chatsworth Drive and Celis Street to said depot.

2. That, in all other respects said Decision No. 13526 as amended and as applying to applicant Asbury Rapid Transit System, shall remain in full force and effect.

3. That said Asbury Rapid Transit System be, and it hereby is, authorized to abandon and discontinue passenger stage service over and along the following streets and highways:

- (a) Along Roxford Street between Olive View Sanitorium at Foothill Boulevard and the intersection of Roxford Street and San Fernando Road and along San Fernando Road between its intersection with Roxford Street and its intersection with Maclay Street in the City of San Fernando, California.
- (b) Between the intersection of Penrose Street and Sunland Boulevard, and the intersection of Hillrose Street and Oro Vista Avenue along Sunland Boulevard, Foothill Boulevard and Oro Vista Avenue. Also along Sherman Grove Avenue between Foothill Boulevard and Hillrose Street and along Hillrose Street between Sherman Grove Avenue and Oro Vista Avenue.
- (c) Between the intersection of Chandler Boulevard and Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood and Warner Bros. Studio on Olive Avenue in Burbank, over and along Lankershim Boulevard, Magnolia Boulevard, Riverside Drive and Pass Avenue.

4. That applicant be, and it hereby is, authorized to cancel all fares, rules, regulations and schedules applying to the service herein authorized to be abandoned by ordering paragraph numbered 3 herein.

5. That, at least five (5) days prior to the changes and abandonments of service herein authorized, applicant shall post notice thereof in all its buses and terminals.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of November 1951.

R. T. Anderson
President
James J. Cadden
Harold Kula
Samuel Patten
John E. Mitchell
Commissioners