

Decision No. 51450**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 AMERICAN BUSLINES, INC., (Richard W. )  
 Smith, Trustee and W. F. Aikman, )  
 Additional Trustee) for an order )  
 authorizing abandonment of seasonal )  
 service between Walnut Grove and )  
 Thornton Junction and between )  
 Isleton and the intersection of )  
 Terminus-Kettleman Road and )  
 Cherokee Lane. )

Application No. 36819

Leo M. Fitzwilliam, for applicant.  
Charles W. Overhouse, for the Commission  
 staff.

O P I N I O N

By application filed March 22, 1955, American Buslines, Inc., requests authority to abandon its seasonal service as a passenger stage corporation (1) between Walnut Grove and Thornton Junction over and along an unnumbered county road and (2) between Isleton and the intersection of Terminus-Kettleman Road and Cherokee Lane, southwest of Lodi over and along said Terminus-Kettleman Road. By Decision No. 35292 dated April 28, 1942 in Application No. 24889, by Decision No. 38789 dated March 26, 1946 in Application No. 26611 and by Decision No. 39128 dated June 25, 1946 in Application No. 27460 applicant's predecessor, Gibson Lines, was authorized by this Commission to operate in this area. These and other rights were acquired by Burlington Transportation Company pursuant to authority contained in Decision No. 44494 dated June 27, 1950 in Application No. 30584. This company became merged with applicant American Buslines, Inc., on October 8, 1951 as evidenced by Decision No. 46190 dated September 18, 1951 in Application No. 32417.

As justification for the requested relief it is alleged that passenger traffic in the area involved has been declining, that as a result, applicant was authorized to place this service on a seasonal basis between approximately May 15, and October 15, of each year, that the particular routes above described have been operated as part of a shuttle service between Walnut Grove and Stockton and between Isleton and Stockton via Lodi, that seasonal service over these lines was authorized<sup>1</sup> due to the fact that during the summer months the passenger revenue approximately returned out-of-pocket cost of operation, that the revenue experienced during 1954, however, has been materially insufficient to meet such out-of-pocket cost, and in applicant's opinion the service is no longer required by public convenience and necessity. The application also contains a statement that applicant is presently operating its Sacramento-Stockton service via Woodbridge and Lodi to afford these towns service. The only place which will be totally without service will be Terminus which presently has service only during the summer months.

Public hearing was held before Examiner John A. Rowe, Jr., on April 29, 1955 in Stockton, California. Evidence was adduced in support of the application and the matter was duly submitted for decision.

Notice of the hearing and of the proposed abandonment was duly published in a newspaper of general circulation published in San Joaquin County and was posted in the terminals and buses of applicant. However, no one appeared in opposition to the requested abandonment.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No. 50102 dated June 1, 1954 in Application No. 35311.

According to the uncontradicted evidence during 1954 the actual out-of-pocket loss per bus mile over the route sought to be abandoned was \$0.1626. The aggregate loss for this service during the year was \$5,189.47 based upon the average system operating cost, and the total out of pocket loss was \$3,226.80. The small number of persons using this service justifies a finding that it is no longer required by public convenience and necessity.

The Commission is of the opinion and finds that the requested abandonment of service should be permitted. Applicant should not be required to suffer this continuous operating loss over a route the operation of which is not required by substantial public convenience and necessity. So that applicant may be relieved of the duty of reinstating such seasonal service the following order shall be effective on its date.

O R D E R

Application as above-entitled having been filed, public hearing thereon having been held, and the matter being duly submitted,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That American Buslines, Inc., be, and it is hereby authorized to abandon and discontinue its passenger stage service between Walnut Grove and Thornton Junction over and along an unnumbered county road, and between Isleton and the intersection of Terminus-Kettleman Road and Cherokee Lane southwest of Lodi over and along said Terminus-Kettleman Road.

2. That said Decisions Nos. 35292, 38789 and 39128, to the extent necessary to effect such abandonment and discontinuance of service, shall be considered as, and they are hereby amended.

3. That notice of the abandonment and discontinuance of service herein authorized shall be posted for a period of at least ten days in applicant's terminals.

4. That applicant be, and it is hereby authorized to cancel all fares, rules, regulations and schedules applying to the service herein authorized to be abandoned on not less than one day's notice to the Commission and to the public.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1955.

[Signature]  
President

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Commissioners