

Decision No. 59416**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation for the purpose of
 establishing a list for the year
 1960 of railroad grade crossings
 of city streets or county roads
 most urgently in need of separation,
 as contemplated by Section 189 of
 the Streets and Highways Code.

Case No. 6344

George D. Moe and Warren P. Marsden, for State of California Department of Public Works; Clayton W. Paige, for City of Burbank; E. D. Yeomans and Randolph Karr, for Southern Pacific Company, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad Company, Visalia Electric Railroad Company, Sunset Railway Company, San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company; Roger Arneburgh and Alan G. Campbell, for City of Los Angeles; T. M. Chubb and Thomas V. Tarbet, for the Department of Public Utilities and Transportation; Roland S. Woodruff, for Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District; J. H. Cummins and Frank Reese and A. M. Shelton, for The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company; Harold W. Kennedy and Ronald L. Schneider, for County of Los Angeles; Stanley B. Christensen and William C. Stookey, for City of Fullerton; G. R. Mitchell, for Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Getz, Aikens and Manning by E. P. Kranitz, for Mr. E. Haberfeld; Robert N. Seltzer, for Los Angeles County Road Department; Everett B. Mansur, L. E. Olson and J. E. Sheehy, for City of San Buenaventura; G. R. Lilinthall, for Chevrolet Los Angeles Division G.M.C.; Lawrence A. Hutton, for City of Colton; E. F. Woolpart, for City of Indio; John T. O'Halloran, for City of Mountain View; Mark L. Kermit, for Contra Costa County; A. P. Hamann and Stanley Twardus, for City of San Jose; Mrs. Louis N. Bargmann, for City of Richmond; Henry A. Graves, for City of Lodi, interested parties.

William C. Bricca, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By its order issued September 1, 1959, the Commission
 instituted an investigation for the purpose of establishing a 1960

priority list of railroad grade crossings of city streets or county roads most urgently in need of separation and of existing grade separations in need of alteration or reconstruction. Such a list is in conformity with Sections 189-191 of the Streets and Highways Code which provide that the annual budget of the Department of Public Works shall include the sum of \$5,000,000 for allocation to grade separations. It is the duty of the Public Utilities Commission to furnish a priority list to the Department of Public Works. The actual allocation of money from State Highway Division funds is made by the Department of Public Works and the California Highway Commission. This is the first year that the fund has been made available to existing grade separations in need of alteration or reconstruction.

Following notice to all interested parties, public hearings were held before Examiner Thomas E. Daly in Los Angeles on November 3, 4 and 5 and in San Francisco on November 9 and 10, 1959.

The Commission's order instituting investigation requested that any city or county desiring to nominate crossings or grade separations for consideration should provide the Commission with the following information:

For Crossings at Grade Proposed for Elimination

1. Identification of crossing, including name of streets or road, name of railroad and crossing number.
2. Twenty-four hour vehicular traffic volume count, by hours.
3. Log of train movements for one typical day showing:
 - (a) Time of passage of train movement.
 - (b) Length of time crossing was blocked for each train movement.
 - (c) Type of each train movement, i.e., passenger, through freight, or switching.

4. Type of separation proposed (overpass or underpass).
5. Cost estimate of project, if available.
6. Statement as to the amount of money available for construction of the project.
7. Statement as to need for the proposed improvement.

For Grade Separations Proposed for Alteration

1. Identification of crossing, including name of street or road, name of railroad and crossing number.
2. Twenty-four hour vehicular traffic volume count, by hours.
3. Description of existing separation structure, with principal dimensions.
4. Type of alteration proposed.
5. Cost estimate of project, if available.
6. Statement as to the amount of money available for construction of the project.
7. Statement as to the need for the proposed improvement.

Exhibit 1 introduced by the Commission staff considered the nominations and relating data filed pursuant to the order instituting investigation in relation to certain tangible and intangible factors. These factors were used for the purpose of comparing the relative importance of one crossing with another in order to assign priorities. The tangible factors applied were traffic, cost, accident, delay and state of readiness. The intangible factors were potential traffic, position and relation to city street pattern, relationship to railroad operations, available alternate routes and accident potential.

Representatives of various cities and counties as well as representatives of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District introduced evidence in support of their nominations.

Certain residents of Bakersfield opposed the advancement of the proposed Chester Avenue separation on the ground that its construction would not only require a greater expenditure than estimated by the Separation District, but would also adversely affect future Civic Center plans. In an ex parte proceeding the Commission, by Decision No. 56977 dated July 15, 1958, in Application No. 39601, authorized the construction of the Chester Avenue separation. As a matter of procedure it is suggested that if there is any evidence that should be brought to the attention of the Commission relating to the construction of the proposed Chester Avenue separation, an appropriate petition should be filed in Application No. 39601.

A representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers suggested various crossings for the Commission's consideration. However, these and other nominated crossings were either not placed upon the list or were placed low upon the list where the record indicated that there would be no possibility of financing said crossings within the provisions of the Streets and Highways Code during the year 1960. The law provides that the Commission include in its list only such crossings or separations which, in its judgment, are most urgently in need of separation or alteration, taking into consideration the possibility of financing.

The priority list, in referring to the various projects, in each instance includes a reference to the grade crossings to be eliminated. Elimination of an existing crossing at grade (alterations to existing separation structures excepted) is a necessary part of the project and if it should be excluded such project would automatically no longer be on the list.

After considering all of the nominations the Commission establishes the following priority list for 1960:

PRIORITY LIST OF SEPARATION OF GRADE PROJECTS
FOR THE YEAR 1960.
PURSUANT TO SECTION 189 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE

<u>Prior- ity Number</u>	<u>Crossing Nos.</u>	<u>Street or Streets (existing crossings) to be eliminated</u>	<u>Street Separation</u>	<u>Local Agency</u>	<u>Railroad</u>
1	DA-46.7	San Pedro Street	Market-Coleman Connection	San Jose	S.P. Co.
2	E-456.2	Woodman Ave.	Woodman Ave.	Los Angeles	S.P. Co.
3	2-887.35	Chester Ave.	Chester Ave.	Greater Bakers- field Separation of Grade Dist.	A.T.&S.F.
4	B-420.8	Angeles Forest Hwy.	Angeles Forest Hwy.	Los Angeles Co.	S.P. Co.
5	2-163.1) 3Y-15.5)	Commonwealth Ave.	Commonwealth Ave.	Fullerton	A.T.&S.F. and U.P.
6	E-34.0	San Antonio Ave.	San Antonio Ave.	Mountain View	S.P. Co.
7	6A-2.76-C	Alameda Street	Alameda Street	Los Angeles	P.E. Ry.
8	2H-15.4-B	*	Aviation Blvd. & Rosecrans Ave.	Los Angeles Co.	A.T.&S.F.
9	2-1157.5-B) B-47.2-B)	*	Willow Pass Road	Contra Costa Co.	S.P. Co. &A.T.&S.F.
10	B-502.4	Anaheim-Puente Road	Anaheim-Puente Road	Los Angeles Co.	S.P. Co.
11	D-104.1-B	*	Turner Road	Lodi	S.P. Co.
12	E-399.4	South Seaward Ave.	South Seaward Ave.	San Buenaventura	S.P. Co.
13	E-458.1	Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Laurel Canyon Blvd.	Los Angeles	S.P. Co.
14	E-460.8	Hollywood Way	Hollywood Way	Burbank	S.P. Co.
15	2B-3.5	N Street	M Street	Colton	A.T.&S.F.
16	B-610.9	Jackson Street	Oasis Street	Indio	S.P. Co.
17	2-995.6) B-207.8)	Jensen Ave.	Jensen Ave.	Fresno Co.	S.P. Co. &A.T.&S.F.
18	A-14.5	23rd Street	23rd Street	Richmond	S.P. Co.

*Widening and alteration of existing separation structure.

O R D E R

The above investigation having been instituted upon the Commission's own motion, public hearing having been held and the Commission being informed in the premises,

IT IS ORDERED that the Secretary shall furnish a full, true and correct copy of this decision and order to the State Department of Public Works.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st day of December, 1959.

Ernest A. Deane
President
W. B. [unclear]
William [unclear]
Theodore [unclear]
Commissioners

Commissioner C. Lyn Fox, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.