

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 65959

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation into the safety, maintenance, operation, use and protection of the following crossings at grade with the lines of UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY: Crossing No. 3-43.4, Milliken Avenue, County of Riverside and County of San Bernardino, California; and Crossing No. 3-49.8, Limonite Avenue, County of Riverside, California.

Case No. 7640  
(Filed June 4, 1963)

Richard D. Gravelle, for the Commission staff.  
Marshall W. Vorkink, for Union Pacific Railroad Company; Eugene Tidwell, for Road Department, County of San Bernardino; James B. Dobbins, for Road Department, County of Riverside; Berkeley Douglas Powell and Tildon L. Brooks, for County of Riverside; and Charles Newman, for California Division of Highways, respondents.

INTERIM OPINION

On June 4, 1963, the Commission instituted an investigation for the purpose of inquiring into safety and various related matters at the Milliken and Limonite Avenue crossings with the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad Company in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.

Public hearing was held before Examiner DeWolf on July 23, 1963, at Riverside, California. The matter was continued to November 14, 1963, at Los Angeles, at which time and place evidence will be received pertaining to the issue of apportioning maintenance costs at said crossings.

It was stipulated by the parties that the Commission should issue an interim order providing for: (a) the installation of automatic crossing gates to supplement Standard No. 8 flashing light signals now in place as set forth in the staff's Exhibit 1; (b) the apportionment, at the Limonite crossing, of installation costs on the basis of 50 per cent to be paid by the County of Riverside and 50 per cent to be paid by the Union Pacific Railroad Company; and (c) the apportionment, at the Milliken Avenue crossing, of installation costs on the basis of 25 per cent to be paid by the County of Riverside and 25 per cent to be paid by the County of San Bernardino, and 50 per cent to be paid by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

The Limonite Avenue crossing is in Riverside County and the Milliken Avenue crossing is at the boundary between the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino and both crossings are on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad between Ontario and Riverside.

Limonite Avenue is the direct route between Pedley and Rubidoux, a distance of 4.2 miles, and it is developed as an expressway between a point one mile west of Rubidoux and a point about 0.4 mile east of Van Buren Boulevard. At the latter point, the expressway traffic is routed on to Limonite Avenue, through Pedley, and over the crossing in question.

Milliken Avenue is now the designated route between the San Bernardino Freeway and Mission Boulevard for traffic destined to or from the Riverside area. Much of this traffic was formerly routed via Archibald Avenue, two miles to the west of Milliken

Avenue. Vehicle-turning movements have been increased at the intersection of Milliken Avenue and Mission Boulevard by this rerouting of traffic, with resulting increased vehicle traffic over the crossing.

Based upon the present and expected future conditions at these crossings it is the recommendation of the staff that automatic crossing gates be installed to supplement the Standard No. 8 flashing light signals now in place at these crossings.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience, necessity and safety require that the Union Pacific Railroad Company tracks at Limonite Avenue and Milliken Avenue (Crossings Nos. 3-49.8 and 3-43.4, respectively) in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino be improved by the installation of automatic crossing gates to supplement the Standard No. 8 flashing light signals as provided for in the following order.

INTERIM ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Limonite Avenue and Milliken Avenue grade crossings of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (Nos. 3-49.8 and 3-43.4, respectively) in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino be further protected by the installation of automatic crossing gates to supplement the Standard No. 8 flashing light signals now in place.
2. The installation of the automatic crossing gates heretofore described in ordering paragraph 1 hereof shall be effected

by the Union Pacific Railroad Company within one year after the effective date of this order.

3. The costs for installing the automatic crossing gates prescribed by ordering paragraph 1 hereof shall be apportioned as to the Limonite Avenue crossing on the basis of fifty percent to be paid by the County of Riverside and fifty percent to be paid by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, and as to the Milliken Avenue crossing, the apportionment of installation costs on the basis of twenty-five percent to be paid by the County of Riverside and twenty-five percent to be paid by the County of San Bernardino and fifty percent to be paid by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

4. Within thirty days after completion of work pursuant to this order respondents shall each so advise this Commission in writing.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day of September, 1963.

*William L. Burns*  
President

*George L. Trover*

*Frederic B. Holbrook*  
Commissioners