

69376

Decision No. _____

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation into the status, safety,)
 maintenance, use and protection or)
 closing of the crossings at grade of the)
 lines of the SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY)
 in the County of Fresno, California,)
 with Cattern Avenue and Lincoln Avenue;)
 Crossings Nos. B-195.3 and B-213.2.)

Case No. 8106
 (Filed January 12, 1965)

Robert M. Wash, County Counsel by
Robert E. White, Deputy, for County
 of Fresno, and Harold S. Lentz for
 Southern Pacific Company, respondents.
Mylford E. Getchel and William C. Bricca,
 for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

This investigation involves two widely separated grade crossings in Fresno County. Cattern Avenue is located in Herndon near the Madera County line and Lincoln is on the other (southeastern) side of the City of Fresno between the stations of Malaga and Fowler.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner Power at Fresno on May 12, 1965 and the matter was submitted subject to receipt of late-filed exhibits. These have been received and the matter is ready for decision.

The staff and both respondents favor physical closing of both crossings. Exhibits 2 and 3 are copies of resolutions of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors which express an intention not to oppose closing of these crossings.

Lincoln Avenue (B-213.2) is an east-west road which, west of Clovis Avenue, crosses the tracks and the access road which once

was the U.S. Highway 99 and thence on to the present 99 Freeway where it dead ends. The 16-hour count by the staff (March 1965) showed 128 vehicular crossings. The County witness gave an average 24-hour figure of 133. With other crossings available nearby, especially Clovis Avenue, which provides access to the freeway, closure of Lincoln Avenue seems the obvious course.

Superficially the problem of Cattern Avenue is more complex. The vehicular traffic is higher. The staff 16-hour count (6 A.M. - 10 P.M.) came to 556 vehicles. This count was taken on March 2 and 3, 1965.

Thirty-six hundredths of a mile southeast of the Cattern Avenue crossing is a street known as Goble Avenue. This street has recently been improved and connected up with Herndon Avenue, an east-west expressway and it now provides a means of reaching old U.S. Highway 99. It also passes under the freeway and connects to the area southwest of the freeway. Cattern also reaches old 99 but ends there. The Goble Avenue construction was completed on July 1, 1964. The Goble crossing has Standard No. 8 flashing light signals.

County traffic counts taken late in 1963 show 1823 vehicles using Cattern and 837 using Goble. After completion of the Goble construction and in August of 1964 new counts were made. They show 830 vehicles at Cattern and 1878 at Goble.

Cattern and Lincoln each is now protected by one Standard No. 1 crossbuck sign. This protection will have to be upgraded if the crossings are left open. In the Commission's opinion there is not enough vehicular traffic at either of these two crossings nor will the inconvenience resulting from closure be sufficient to justify keeping either of them open.

The Commission finds that:

1. Public need no longer requires grade crossings at Cattern Avenue and Lincoln Avenue with tracks of the Southern Pacific Company's El Paso route in Fresno County.
2. Public health and safety require that these two crossings be closed.

The Commission concludes that Cattern Avenue and Lincoln Avenue crossings should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company is authorized and directed to abolish by physical closing its crossings with roads of the County of Fresno Nos. B-195.3, Cattern Avenue and B-213.2, Lincoln Avenue within 30 days after the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7th day of JULY, 1965.

Frederick B. Hildreth
President

John E. L. L. L.

George H. Grover

Augustin

William W. Bennett
Commissioners