

Decision No. 82796

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
Southern Pacific Transportation)
Company for authority to remove)
station pedestrian subway tunnel)
from public service at Palo Alto,)
County of Santa Clara, State of)
California.)

Application No. 54078
(Filed June 1, 1973)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law, for Southern
Pacific Transportation Company, applicant.
Steven D. McMorris, Attorney at Law, for City of
Palo Alto; J. L. Evans, for Legislative Board
United Transportation Union; protestants.
Robert T. Baer, Attorney at Law, for the Commission
staff.

O P I N I O N

Applicant requests authority to remove the pedestrian underpass at Palo Alto.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Porter at Palo Alto on December 10, 1973 and the matter was submitted.

Applicant presented evidence that the underpass is difficult to police and maintain and has been a subject of public complaints.

The city of Palo Alto presented evidence to the effect that the local police had experienced no particular difficulty in policing the area of the underpass and that the underpass provides convenient access to the major portion of existing public parking lot facilities, bus, and taxi loading and unloading locations. While there was some graffiti on the underpass walls, it was no more objectionable than that found in other public places. The underpass also provides a safer crossing of the railroad tracks than that provided by the surface crossings.

Upon consideration of all the facts, the Commission finds that there is no compelling reason for removal of the pedestrian underpass and concludes that the application should be denied.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Application No. 54078 is denied.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th
day of APRIL, 1974.

William Simpson President
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature] Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.