

ORIGINAL NOV 13 1987

Decision 87 11 017

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 )  
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION )  
 COMMISSION )  
 )  
 for an order authorizing the )  
 construction of two light rail )  
 vehicle tracks at separated grade )  
 beneath San Diego, I-405 Freeway )  
 Grade Separation Structure, designated )  
 by the State of California Department )  
 of Transportation as Bixby Overhead )  
 Bridge No. 53-1208, in the City of )  
 Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, )  
 California )

Application 87-07-011  
(Filed July 9, 1987)

OPINION

As part of the project to construct a light rail transit (LRT) system, the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) requests authority to construct two light rail vehicle (LRV) tracks on the former Southern Pacific Transportation Company's (SPT) Wilmington Branch Line Right of Way, at separated grades under the Bixby Overhead of Interstate Route 405 (I-405) San Diego Freeway in Long Beach, Los Angeles County.

The Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project is part of an on-going transit development process in which the Long Beach-Los Angeles corridor and thirteen other corridors have been identified as candidates for transit improvements. The project is being planned as a conventional LRT system from downtown Los Angeles to downtown Long Beach to serve between 54,000 and 76,000 passengers per day. A variety of impacts were identified, both beneficial and adverse. Mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

LACTC is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resources Code Sections 21000, et seq. After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), LACTC approved the project. On March 29, 1985, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources and with the Los Angeles County Clerk which found that "The project will have a significant impact on the environment". A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR. The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission staff.

LACTC wishes to commence construction of this portion of its LRT system in November 1987. It is therefore requested that the usual 30-day effective date on an order be waived. We will make our order effective immediately.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on July 16, 1987. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

#### Findings of Fact

1. LACTC requests authority under Public Utilities Code Sections 1201-1205 to construct two LRV tracks on the former SPT's Wilmington Branch Line Right of Way, at separated grades under the Bixby Overhead-I-405 San Diego Freeway in Long Beach, Los Angeles County.
2. Construction of the LRV tracks is an essential element in the construction of the LRT system.
3. Public convenience, necessity, and safety require construction of the tracks.
4. LACTC is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.

5. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR.

6. The Long Beach-Los Angeles Rail Transit Project will have a significant impact on the environment; however, mitigation measures will either eliminate or reduce the severity of the adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

7. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for the project.

Conclusion of Law

1. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

2. The usual 30-day effective date on an order should be waived as LACTC wishes to commence construction of the project in November 1987.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) is authorized to construct two LRV tracks, to be identified as Crossing 84L-17.2-A, on the former Southern Pacific Transportation Company's Wilmington Branch Line Right of Way, at separated grades under the Bixby Overhead Interstate Route 405 (I-405) San Diego Freeway in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, at the locations and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application.

2. Clearances shall be in accordance with General Order (GO) 26-D. Walkways shall conform to GO 118.

3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement which has been entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement has been filed with the Commission.

4. Within 30 days after completion of the work under this order, LACTC shall notify the Commission in writing that the authorized work has been completed.

5. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

6. The application is granted as set forth above.

This order is effective today.

Dated NOV 13 1987, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
C. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

Commissioner Donald Vial, being necessarily absent, did not participate.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION  
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE  
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.

  
Victor Weiss, Executive Director