

Decision 90-12-035 December 6, 1990

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 separate grade above Santa
Fe Avenue, the alteration of three
tracks at grade into one track crossing
at grade cross Santa Fe Avenue, in the
County of Los Angeles, California

ORIGINAL

Application 86-08-035
(Filed August 22, 1986)

And Related Matters

-) Application 87-12-034
-) Application 88-08-005
-) Application 88-10-008
-) Application 88-10-015
-) Application 88-11-001
-) Application 88-11-021
-) Application 88-11-030
-) Application 88-12-021
-) Application 88-12-029
-) Application 88-12-033
-) Application 88-12-054
-) Application 89-01-044
-) Application 89-02-013

ORDER MODIFYING DECISIONS 87-07-077, ET AL.

On September 27, 1990, the Los Angeles County
Transportation Commission (LACTC) filed a motion to consolidate the
above-captioned applications and a petition to modify Decisions
(D.) 87-07-077 (A.86-08-035), D.88-03-031 (A.87-12-034),
D.88-12-007 (A.88-08-005), D.89-01-031 (A.88-10-015),
D.89-02-056 (A.88-10-008), D.89-03-036 (A.88-11-030),
D.89-04-006 (A.88-11-001), D.89-04-012 (A.88-12-029),
D.89-04-033 (A.88-12-021), D.89-04-039 (A.88-12-033),
D.89-04-063 (A.89-01-044), D.89-04-065 (A.88-12-054),
D.89-08-003 (A.88-11-021) and D.89-11-009 (A.89-02-013).

The decisions in the above listed applications authorized
the LACTC to construct five new aerial structures and to relocate
an existing aerial structure to accommodate two light rail transit
(LRT) tracks at separated grade over various city streets,
railroads and the Long Beach Freeway.

All the above fourteen decisions were issued with interim orders, pending further review of the need for the installation of handrails on the aerial structures involved in each of the applications.

Discussion

Following extensive discussion between LACTC and the Commission's Safety Division staff regarding the need for the installation of handrails, comments were solicited from the railroad companies and various governmental agencies responsible for public safety in the areas in which the LACTC aerial structures are located. After review of these comments by both LACTC and the Commission staff, all outstanding safety concerns involving the issue of handrails on the aerial structures were successfully resolved on an individual aerial structure by aerial structure basis.

In lieu of handrails along the outer edges of the deck, the following safety features have been incorporated into the design to provide the necessary protection for authorized personnel as well as any trespassers who may illegally enter on to the aerial structures:

1. Walkways have been provided between the tracks to provide a safe haven from passing trains. This center walkway design also serves to guide trespassers away from the outside edges of the aerial structures.

2. Walkways with handrails have been provided where the trackways separate at elevated stations, and the center walkway must of necessity divide into two inboard walkways.

3. Controlled evacuation procedures utilizing the center walkway have been established in the event an emergency evacuation is required on an aerial structure.

4. Signs stating "No Trespassing" have been installed and are being maintained, in accordance with California Penal Code, Sections 602 and 554.1.

5. Enforcement of trespassing laws are policed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with the objective of eliminating unauthorized access to the aerial structures and right-of-way.

6. Fences have been installed which join the six feet high concrete retaining walls at each of the transition structures where the track profile changes from at grade to aerial configuration. This design impedes potential trespassers from gaining access to the aerial structures.

7. The aerial structures have been designed and constructed to accommodate the erection of temporary railings which will be installed as required to accommodate maintenance workers on the aerial structures.

Commission staff, after reviewing the safety measures taken by LACTC, believes that the elimination of handrails on the outer edge of the decks of the aerial structures does not unduly compromise safety. A field inspection of the aerial structures has been conducted by the Rail Transit Safety Branch staff to confirm the aerial structures have been constructed in accordance with the approved design standards, and that the center walkway provides the necessary safe refuge area for anyone who may be on the structure when trains are in service.

Notice of the Petition for Modification was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 5, 1990. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings of Fact

1. LACTC requests authority to consolidate and modify D.87-07-077 (A.86-08-035) and thirteen other decisions and applications.

2. LACTC petitions the Commission to issue a final order finding that the safety of the separated grade crossings, as more fully described in the Motion to Consolidate and the Petition for Modification filed on October 5, 1990, is acceptable.

3. LACTC has successfully resolved the safety concerns expressed by the Commission staff, the affected railroad companies and the various governmental agencies responsible for public safety in the areas where the aerial structures are located.

4. Appropriate measures have been undertaken by LACTC to provide safe working and walkway areas for authorized personnel who must be on the structures as well as for trespassers.

5. Adequate measures are in place to deter unauthorized access by trespassers to the aerial structures.

Conclusions of Law

1. Appropriate safety measures have been taken by the LACTC to compensate for the lack of handrails on the aerial structures.

2. The Petition for Modification of D.87-07-077 et al, and Motion to Consolidate A.86-08-035 et al, should be granted as set forth in the following order.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Los Angeles County Transportation Commission (LACTC) is authorized to consolidate Applications 86-08-035, 87-12-034, 88-08-005, 88-10-008, 88-10-015, 88-11-001, 88-11-021, 88-11-030, 88-12-021, 88-12-029, 88-12-033, 88-12-054, 89-01-044 and 89-02-013.

2. Decisions 87-07-077, 88-03-031, 88-12-007, 89-01-031, 89-02-056, 89-03-036, 89-04-006, 89-04-012, 89-04-033, 89-04-039, 89-04-063, 89-04-065, 89-08-003 and 89-11-009 are modified to include the Commission finding that it is not necessary to install handrails on the aerial structures. In all other respects D.87-07-077 et al shall remain in full force and effect.

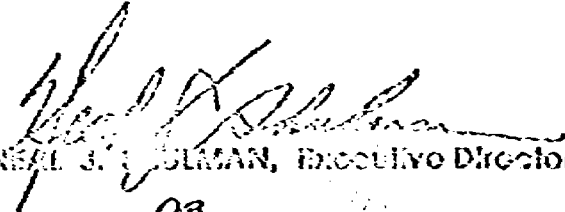
3. The Petition to Modify and Consolidate is granted as set forth above.

This order becomes effective thirty (30) days from today.

Dated DEC 06, 1990, at San Francisco, California.

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. CHANIAN
PATRICIA M. BOKEFF
Commissioners

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


NEAL J. SULMAN, Executive Director
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