

SD

Decision No. 91608

APR 15 1980

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California,
Department of Transportation for an
order authorizing the widening of the
Slauson Avenue overhead, existing PUC
No. BBJ-494.03-A over the Southern
Pacific Transportation Company's one
branch main track, one spur track on
one future track in the City of
Commerce, County of Los Angeles.

Application No. 59200
(Filed October 12, 1979)

O P I N I O N

As part of the project to widen portions of the Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5) in the Cities of Downey and Commerce, the California Department of Transportation requests authority to widen the northbound side of the Slauson Avenue Overhead over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's tracks in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County.

The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq.

After preparation and review of an Initial Study, the California Department of Transportation issued a Negative Declaration and approved the project. On July 27, 1979, a Notice of Determination was filed with the Secretary for Resources which found that "The project will not have a significant effect on the environment."

The Commission is a responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration. The site of the proposed project has also been inspected by the Commission staff.

There is an extensively documented need to improve conditions and relieve traffic congestion along the Santa Ana Freeway corridor in the Cities of Downey and Commerce. Heavy congestion occurs during peak and off-peak periods, causing major delays in traffic movement as well as a high incidence of accidents within the corridor. The main objectives of the widening project are to reduce the incidence of accidents, alleviate traffic congestion, correct substandard features and mitigate traffic noise at residential frontage.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 16, 1979. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds:

1. Applicant should be authorized to widen the northbound side of the Slauson Avenue Overhead over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's tracks in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County, at the location and substantially as shown by plans attached to the application, identified as Crossing BBJ-494.03-A.

2. Clearances should be in accordance with General Order 26-D, except that during the period of construction a clearance of not less than 21'6" above top of rail should be authorized and Southern Pacific Transportation Company should be authorized to operate with such reduced overhead clearance provided that instructions are issued by the railroad and filed with the Commission forbidding employees to ride on tops of cars beneath the structure.

3. Applicant should notify the Commission and Southern Pacific Transportation Company at least 15 but not more than 30 days in advance of the date when the temporary impaired clearance will be created.

4. Walkways should conform to General Order 118. Walkways adjacent to any trackage subject to rail operations should be maintained free of obstructions and should promptly be restored to their original condition in the event of damage during construction.

5. Construction and maintenance costs should be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties relative thereto and a copy of the agreement, together with plans of the crossing approved by Southern Pacific Transportation Company, should be filed with the Commission prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.

6. Applicant is the lead agency for this project, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.

7. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has independently evaluated and assessed the lead agency's Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

8. This project will have no significant impact on the environment.

C O N C L U S I O N

On the basis of the foregoing findings, we conclude that the application should be granted as set forth in the following order:

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The California Department of Transportation is authorized to widen the northbound side of the Slauson Avenue Overhead over Southern Pacific Transportation Company's tracks in the City of Commerce, Los Angeles County, as set forth in the findings of this decision.

2. Within thirty days after completion, pursuant to this order, applicant shall so advise the Commission in writing.

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

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

Dated APR 15 1980, at San Francisco, California.

Commissioner John E. Bryson,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.

President

Vernon L. Sturgeon

Richard D. Howell

Charles T. Pedraza

Samuel H. Jones

Commissioners