

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 820a

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served May 23, 1968

Order to Institute Investigation )  
of Devices and Practices for )  
Driver Safety on Buses of D. C. )  
Transit System, Inc. )

Docket No. 178

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

On May 21, 1968, we entered our Order No. 820 directing that a hearing be held at the earliest possible time, specifically June 4, 1968, on the subject of requiring the installation of devices for driver safety. That order, in the main, focused upon the use of a plastic shield to protect the driver from assault. In a footnote on page 4 of the order, we indicated our willingness to consider any other solutions which the parties or the staff suggest. In discussions with interested parties, particularly union representatives, since the issuance of that order, it has come to our attention that it would be useful to clarify the language we used in that footnote. We wish to state, therefore, that in the hearing called for by Order No. 820 we will specifically consider any new reasonable means of fare collection which will permit doing away with cash handling on the bus completely. Further, we will herewith direct the staff to prepare and present to the Commission at the hearing, or sooner if possible, a report and recommendation on this subject. The staff can direct itself to a means of achieving this objective on a long-range basis as well as to means of achieving a similar result which could be put into effect on an interim basis while we consider long-term solutions. The staff is directed to consult with anyone from whom assistance would be useful, including union representatives, drivers, and the company. The company will be directed to provide any information which the staff requires in the course of preparing its report and recommendation.

The Commission has also been considering, since the issuance of Order No. 820, whether there are any further steps which could be taken immediately to reduce the amount of change money carried by the bus driver during the evening hours. There is a further step which can be taken and which in light of the emergency situation which now appears to exist is justifiable on an interim basis while we proceed with the hearing and implement its results. Specifically, we believe it is reasonable in the interim period to authorize a policy that no tokens need be sold on the bus after 7:00 p.m. each day. Tokens will be acceptable as a fare at all times but it will be the responsibility of the passenger to purchase them prior to 7:00 p.m. If the passenger does not have a token subsequent to 7:00 p.m., he will be required to pay the regular cash fare. This will permit a further substantial reduction in the amount of change money which the driver needs to carry during the evening hours.

Together with the provisions of Order No. 820 that the driver shall not be required to change a bill larger than one dollar and if the public will cooperate by having the exact fare, to the maximum extent possible, in the evening hours, these steps should permit the reduction in the amount of change money required by the bus driver in the evening hours to very minimal levels during the period while we are considering and implementing other more permanent means of dealing with driver safety. With the added factor of the substantial police protection the City is now able to provide exclusively for the protection of bus drivers, we believe that this will have a very significant impact on the problem of robberies and harassment of bus drivers.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

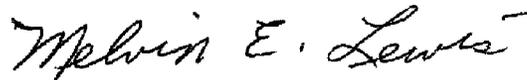
1. That at the hearing scheduled by Order No. 820, the Commission will consider all ideas suggested by the parties for increasing driver protection, including specifically any reasonable means of fare collection which will permit the elimination of cash handling by the driver.

2. That the staff of the Commission is directed to submit a report and recommendation with regard to new reasonable means of fare handling as described in the previous paragraph; said report to be submitted at the hearing to be held pursuant to Order No. 820, or sooner if possible.

3. That D. C. Transit System, Inc., is directed to provide the staff with any information it requires in the course of preparing its report and recommendation.

4. That beginning Friday, May 24, 1968, the bus operators of D. C. Transit System, Inc., shall not be required to sell tokens after 7:00 p.m. each day.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin E. Lewis".

MELVIN E. LEWIS  
Executive Director