

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1114

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served January 4, 1971

Discount for Interline Travel)
on Buses of A. B. & W. Transit)
Company, D. C. Transit System,)
Inc., W. V. & M. Coach Company,)
and WMA Transit Company)

Docket No. 225

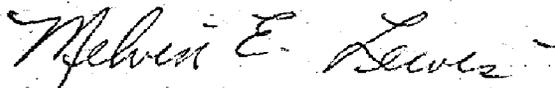
For several years, regular route bus companies subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission have offered an "interline discount", an arrangement under which a rider who travels on more than one carrier between Virginia and the District of Columbia, or between Maryland and the District of Columbia, receives a reduction in the base fare of the second carrier. This program was established by the carriers voluntarily, at the request of this Commission, in an attempt to promote free flow of mass transit ridership throughout the Metropolitan District.

When the interline discount was inaugurated, on November 1, 1961, it provided a fifteen-cent reduction for what would otherwise have been a fifty-cent trip between the first zone in Virginia and the District of Columbia. Now the discount for the same trip is only five cents while the cost of the trip itself has increased to ninety cents.

This marked decline in the relative value of the interline discount was noted by both the Commission staff and members of the public during recent hearings on Docket No. 221, Application of Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company for Authority to Increase Fares. Another deficiency noted was that the discount is not applicable to all trips within the Metropolitan District for which a free transfer is not presently available. In Order No. 1101, issued at the conclusion of that case, we discussed the need for a reexamination of existing interline discount arrangements, and indicated that we would set a date by which the area mass transit operators would be expected to develop a new interline fare scheme providing a more substantial interline discount. If a satisfactory proposal cannot be developed by the carriers themselves, we will initiate a proposal on our own motion to effect the needed improvements.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Alexandria, Barcroft and Washington Transit Company, the D. C. Transit System, Inc., the Washington, Virginia, and Maryland Coach Company, and the WMA Transit Company submit by March 1, 1971, a plan for inter-line fares applicable to all trips for which a free transfer is not available, and providing a more substantial discount than that now offered, or, failing that, a report outlining reasons why a plan agreeable to all carriers could not be reached.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION



MELVIN E. LEWIS
Executive Director