

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1129

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served April 2, 1971

Establishment of Reduced)
Fares on D. C. Transit System,)
Inc., for Senior Citizens.)

In Order No. 1052, the Commission undertook the development of an "experimental program for the provision of reduced fares for senior citizens during non-rush hours" on the bus routes of D. C. Transit System, Inc. (Transit). Having studied a proposal submitted by Transit in accordance with that order, as well as other senior citizen reduced fare systems throughout the United States and Canada, the Commission, in cooperation with Transit, has developed an experimental program providing a 15¢ reduction in fares for senior citizens. This reduced rate will apply to anyone 65 years of age or over, during off-peak hours on weekdays (Monday through Friday) and all day Sunday. The reduced rate will not apply on any day that a Saturday schedule is operated.

Use of the reduced fare must be accompanied by the presentation of a special identification card to be issued by Transit at no charge. All senior citizen patrons will be advised that the operator may ask for additional identification confirmation at any time.

The test will be preceded by a system-wide survey of existing senior citizen ridership during non-rush hours as a basis for evaluating the efficacy of continuing the program beyond the trial period. In addition, detailed data will be accumulated and evaluated during the experiment relating to both interstate and intrastate senior citizen patronage in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

The senior citizen fare reduction is being initially instituted on an experimental basis because, unlike such programs in other cities, this program is not being subsidized

by public funds. As stated in Order No. 1052, we do not view such a program necessarily as a financial imposition on the company inasmuch as it is our belief that we should first determine whether or not a reduced off-peak fare can indeed produce more revenue through greater ridership.

As this is a Commission-ordered project as contemplated in Order No. 773 which established a "Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects", Transit will be authorized to make expenditures from this reserve for such items as the costs involved in registering persons and issuing special identification cards, the purchase of mechanical counters for data collection, and the extra costs incurred in preparing the necessary statistics during the experimental period. However, authorization will not include reimbursement for any revenue loss due to reduced fares or diversionary patronage losses.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That D. C. Transit System, Inc., undertake a survey to provide a complete count of existing senior citizen ridership on a weekday from 9:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M., and from 7:00 P. M. to 3:00 A. M. and all day on a Sunday, the results of the survey to be provided to the Commission prior to April 20, 1971.

2. That D. C. Transit System, Inc., file an appropriate tariff providing for a fifteen-cent (15¢) reduction of all regular route fares of forty cents (40¢) or more, for anyone 65 years of age or older, during the off-peak hours from 9:30 A. M. to 3:00 P. M., and again from 7:00 P. M. to 3:00 A. M. weekdays (Monday through Friday), and all day Sunday, to be valid upon presentation of a special identification card issued by Transit.

3. That D. C. Transit System, Inc., design and submit for staff approval a special senior citizen identification card and procedure for registration of senior citizens so that such registration can commence by April 20, 1971.

4. That the senior citizen reduced fare experiment commence on Sunday, May 9, 1971, and continue thereafter for

ninety (90) consecutive days, subject to further continuation by order of the Commission.

5. That D. C. Transit System, Inc., maintain a daily count of senior citizen ridership by interstate and intrastate District of Columbia and Maryland routes, and that reports of such daily ridership be submitted to the Commission on a weekly basis.

6. That, after forty-five (45) days of experience, the staff shall analyze and evaluate the ridership data and report its findings and recommendations to the Commission on or before the sixtieth (60th) day.

7. That direct expenditures in connection with this experiment may be reimbursed to Transit from the "Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects" under the terms of Order No. 773, after submission to and approval by the Commission. Eligible expenditures may include costs involved in registering persons and issuing special identification cards, the purchase of mechanical counters for data collection, and the extra costs incurred in analyzing the data, but shall not include reimbursement for any revenue loss due to reduced fares or diversionary patronage losses.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



GEORGE A. AVERY
Chairman

Hooker, Commissioner, not participating.

