

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1159

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served July 30, 1971

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., to Add Route )  
M-3. )

Application No. 675

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc. to Abandon Its )  
D. C. Downtowner Minibus )  
Service. )

Application No. 676

Docket No. 228

In Order No. 1131 issued April 16, 1971, we authorized D. C. Transit System, Inc. (Transit) to discontinue its Downtowner Minibus Service and to substitute the so-called M-3 Shoppers' Special. However, because various organizations had expressed an interest in the continuation of service in the nature of the Minibus operation, and a willingness to support it, we delayed the effective date of discontinuance of the Minibus to allow time for those interested parties to develop an alternative. By Order No. 1143 issued May 27, 1971, having received word that a proposal for a new downtown service was indeed being developed, we extended the effective date for discontinuance of the Minibus to August 1, 1971. We again indicated that if progress toward implementation of the new proposal were such that firm indications could be made that real support for the new service existed and firm estimates given of the time at which the new service would commence, we would consider extending the operation of the Minibus beyond August 1, 1971.

On July 23, 1971, we received a letter from the Deputy Mayor-Commissioner of the District of Columbia, with a copy of an application which the District of Columbia has submitted to the Urban Mass Transit Administration seeking federal assistance for the purchase of fifteen medium-size buses to be used in various ways to meet special downtown mass transit needs. The letter indicates that the new service can be initiated by

February 1, 1972, and requests that the existing Minibus be operated until that date. The suggestion was made that if after 90 days it appears that the new service cannot, for some reason, be operating by February 1, 1972, then the Minibus should be discontinued forthwith and the M-3 substituted until the new service can operate.

While there has been no formal reaction to the application from the Department of Transportation, all indications are that the application will be considered favorably and expeditiously. D. C. Transit has agreed to continue the operation of the Minibus for a limited period. Park and Shop and Downtown Progress have offered to provide some financial assistance for the Minibus operation pending initiation of the new service.

The response of the local and federal governments and local businessmen has been most encouraging and we seem to be well on the way to a solution of this problem. We will extend the operation of the Minibus for the requested six months on the condition that an evaluation of the attainability of the February 1, 1972, target date be made within three months, and if it is determined at that time that the new service cannot be in operation by February 1, 1972, the Minibus will be terminated.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the effective date for discontinuance of the Downtowner Minibus and the inauguration of the M-3 Shoppers' Special of D. C. Transit System, Inc., authorized in Order No. 1131, be, and it is hereby, postponed to February 1, 1972.

2. That the sponsors of the new downtown service to be provided with medium-size buses submit to us by October 15, 1971, a firm commitment that the new service can be operated by February 1, 1972, or, in the alternative, an indication of when the service will operate.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION,

  
DOUGLAS N. SCHNEIDER, JR.  
Executive Director