

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1330

IN THE MATTER OF:

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|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Investigation of INTERSTATE |) | Served June 5, 1974 |
| TAXICAB FARES Between Washington |) | |
| National Airport and Points in |) | Docket No. 265 |
| the Metropolitan District |) | |

The Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 13(b) empowers the Commission to investigate "any facts, conditions, practices, or matters which it may find necessary or proper in order to determine whether any person has violated or is about to violate any provision of this Act or any rule, regulation, or order thereunder, or to aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act or in prescribing rules or regulations thereunder, or in obtaining information to serve as a basis for recommending further legislation." The Commission has decided to institute this investigation, on its own motion, to determine whether the current interstate fare system applicable to transportation by taxicabs operating at Washington National Airport (National) is in the public interest. The investigation will not only embrace a study of alternative fare systems which may be just and reasonable for transportation by taxicab to or from National, but also their administration and enforcement.

The Commission is of the opinion that this investigation is necessary and proper. On January 1, 1974, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established at National an "open cab system". 1/ Prior to that date, only Greyhound Airport Service, Inc., had operated taxicab service from

1/ The "open cab system" entitles any person operating a vehicle used to transport persons for hire to solicit passengers for such transportation, if the person pays a fee established by the Federal Aviation Administration.

National pursuant to a concessionaire's contract with the FAA. Since that date any person desiring to provide transportation for hire by taxicab has been permitted to solicit passengers at specified loading points on the airport grounds. During the period that the "open cab system" has been in effect, the volume of complaints made to the Commission by travellers engaging the services of persons operating taxicabs from National has increased substantially. Most of these complaints relate to overcharges in operations from National, and most were found to be justified. Accordingly, the Commission believes that it is in the public interest to institute this investigation for the purposes of re-examining the present fare system and changing it, if found warranted.

The Commission notes that it has recently completed a proceeding to determine the appropriate level of interstate fares. 2/ This proceeding is neither instituted nor designed to consider proposals for increased revenues. It is understood that various types of fare determination systems will, by their nature, render different fares between the same points. This result is to be expected. But the Commission will not, in this proceeding, consider fare proposals which will generate revenue levels that vary significantly from those currently prescribed.

Alternative fare system proposals may embrace any reasonable basis for computing fares, including but not limited to shared, multiple, or group riding systems, or zone, mileage, or time based systems. It must be noted, however, that the Commission cannot require the installation of a taximeter in any jurisdiction which does not permit or require such a device. 3/

The Commission desires to have the views, recommendations, and alternative fare system proposals of the general public, the taxicab industry, individual taxicab operators, the FAA, local licensing and regulating agencies, local

2/ See Order Nos. 1305 and 1306, served February 22, 1974.

3/ Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 8.

municipalities and jurisdictions, and other interested parties. The Commission shall serve a copy of this order upon the FAA and shall seek its assistance in defining the current and prospective operation of the "open cab system" at National.

The Commission shall schedule a public hearing for Friday, June 28, 1974. Any person desiring to be heard on this matter should advise the Commission in writing on or before Monday, June 24, 1974, and should submit at that time a statement of views, recommendations, or alternative fare system proposals.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation be, and it is hereby, instituted into the system of interstate taxicab fares between Washington National Airport and points within the Metropolitan District.

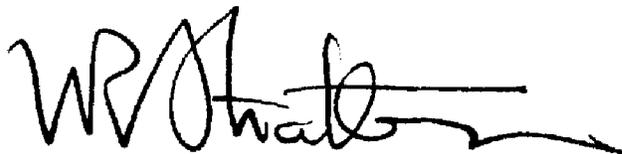
2. That any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall so advise the Commission, in writing, on or before Monday, June 24, 1974.

3. That any person desiring to advance any views, recommendations, or alternative fare system proposals shall submit such a statement to the Commission, in writing, on or before Monday, June 24, 1974.

4. That a public hearing be, and it is hereby, scheduled for Friday, June 28, 1974, at 10:00 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

5. That the Commission staff cause notice of this order and the investigation instituted hereby to be published once each week during the period commencing Sunday, June 2, 1974, and ending Saturday, June 15, 1974, in newspapers of general circulation within the Metropolitan District.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WR Stratton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WILLIAM R. STRATTON
Vice-Chairman