

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1333

IN THE MATTER OF:

AMENDMENT of Regulation	)	Served June 13, 1974
No. 67 entitled "Regulations	)	
Governing Reduced Fares for	)	Application No. 834
School Children in the	)	
District of Columbia"	)	

By motion, filed May 29, 1974, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) requests that we amend our Regulation No. 67. This regulation governs the sale and use of reduced fare tickets by students attending the public free schools in the District of Columbia, and by those attending approved nonpublic schools in the District of Columbia whose courses of instruction are similar to the ones given in the public schools. WMATA seeks to have Regulation No. 67 amended by including the words "and token(s)" after the word "ticket(s)" and by changing the period of years that the application forms must be retained from the current five-year period to a three-year period.

WMATA seeks to effect a change from a paper ticket to a metal token fare system. The use of tokens is more economical and efficient than the tickets. The school tokens are subject to machine counting and are re-usable. Thus, the introduction of tokens has necessitated the requested amendment of the current Regulation No. 67 to embrace tokens.

The current Regulation No. 67 requires that WMATA keep on file for a period of not less than five years the application forms surrendered at time of purchase. WMATA has requested that this period be reduced to three years.

The benefit to be gained by keeping the records for five years rather than three years does not justify the longer period of retention.

The Commission has the power to perform any and all acts, and to amend such regulations as it may find necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of the Compact. The Commission may specify the effective date of any regulation. See Compact, Title II, Article XIII, Section 15.

We are of the opinion that the regulation should be amended to include the words "and token(s)" after "ticket(s)" and to provide for a period of three years rather than five years for the keeping on file of application forms surrendered at time of purchase.

An additional matter is presented to us by WMATA in its motion. That is the respective procedures of WMATA and the Government of the District of Columbia with respect to the method for auditing, calculating and verifying the subsidy to be paid on school token fares collected after July 1, 1974. We believe that the procedures proposed by WMATA and the Government of the District of Columbia should be instituted by each and that the procedures would properly safeguard the public interest. In addition to the new school token accounting procedure, we believe that the existing procedure of accounting for school tickets also must be maintained as long as school tickets are accepted as fares.

There are related matters, not covered within the motion, which we believe warrant discussion in connection with the action taken herein.

WMATA does not propose to sell school tickets after the end of the regular school term in June 1974. School token sales would begin in sufficient time to be available to students prior to the beginning of summer school. WMATA should give notice of the change-over to the public as far in advance of the end of the regular

school term as possible to allow time for students to use their supply of school tickets. WMATA school ticket outlets should advise students of the change-over to discourage any purchase of school tickets exceeding the amount needed to complete the regular school term.

For a period of time, not specified in the motion, the use of school tickets and school tokens will overlap. WMATA does not propose to redeem outstanding school tickets for cash or to trade them for tokens. Rather, it proposes to provide a suitable period during which outstanding tickets may be used as valid school fares.

It is our further understanding that WMATA intends an examination of the volume of recovery of school tickets through the farebox in conjunction with the District of Columbia Office of Municipal Audit and Inspection to determine the propriety of adopting December 31, 1974, as the date after which only tokens will be acceptable. The Commission concurs that an appropriate final date of accounting for school tickets should be established. Further, the Commission believes that at least 30 days notice should be provided the public in advance of the final use date.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the motion of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to amend the Commission's Regulation No. 67 be, and it is hereby, granted.

2. That Regulation No. 67, entitled "Regulations Governing Reduced Fares for School Children in the District of Columbia" be, and it is hereby, amended to include the words "and token(s)" after each reference to "tickets(s)".

3. That Regulation No. 67 be, and it is hereby, further amended by changing the requirement of Section (C)

from "five (5) years", to "three (3) years" for the retention period for surrendered application forms, such amendment to become effective 45 days after the date of this order.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

*Hyman J. Blond*

HYMAN J. BLOND  
Executive Director