

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1466

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of WEBB TOURS, INC.)	Served October 29, 1975
for Temporary Authority)	
To Perform Special Operations)	Application No. 885

By Application No. 885, filed October 15, 1975, Webb Tours, Inc. (Webb) seeks temporary authority pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact, to transport passengers, over irregular routes, in special operations, from hotels or motels in Maryland or Virginia which are within the Metropolitan District to downtown Washington, D. C., and return. Webb proposes to restrict the proposed service to persons who are being transported on a "Spirit of 76 Tour".

The proposed service would be performed with either automobiles, limousines, or small vans or buses. The proposed charge for such service would be \$2.00 per person. The proposed service primarily constitutes a pick-up and delivery transportation service for patrons of a "Spirit of 76 Tour".

By Order No. 1443, served July 21, 1975, application for reconsideration denied by Order No. 1451, served August 18, 1975, Webb was granted temporary authority to transport passengers, over irregular routes, located within downtown Washington, D. C., embracing the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Capitol Hill, The Mall, and Embassy Row, Pennsylvania Avenue, and within Arlington County, Va., to the extent of Arlington National Cemetery and Iwo Jima Memorial. Webb operates three "Spirit of 76 Tours" pursuant to that temporary authority, which will remain in effect through January 17, 1976.

Under Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact, the Commission must base any decision to grant temporary authority to provide a specific service upon the findings that there is an immediate and urgent need to a point or points within a territory and that there is no carrier service capable of meeting such need. So finding, the Commission may, in its discretion and without hearings or other proceedings, grant temporary authority.

Webb states that many people who come to the Washington, D. C., area stay in hotels or motels in Maryland and Virginia; that some of these people desire to take the sightseeing tours it offers; and that the transportation services available to these people are not convenient or suitable as a pick-up and delivery service for its tours. Webb also filed a letter of support from the Ramada Inn, Lanham, Md. The letter indicates that there is a need for either limousine service or special vans or buses to transport patrons of "Spirit of 76 Tours" between that motel and downtown Washington, D. C., and that there currently is no suitable transportation service to meet the needs of persons using the motel.

Webb submits that the means of transportation currently available to persons staying in suburban hotels or motels are not capable of providing suitable transportation for patrons of the "Spirit of 76 Tours". Webb states that the use of private automobiles increases air pollution and street congestion; that the use of taxicabs or private limousines is expensive; and that scheduled regular-route carrier service is not convenient for persons unfamiliar with the bus routes.

Webb's Application No. 885 is not a request to expand the temporary authority granted by Order No. 1443. That order authorized the performance of a sightseeing service within a limited portion of the Metropolitan District. The present application seeks authority to perform a transportation service from hotels or motels in Maryland and Virginia within the Metropolitan District to Washington, D. C., and return. This service is to be restricted to patrons of "Spirit of 76 Tours". There would be a separate charge for this service. As proposed, the service would not constitute a part of the sightseeing operation. Rather, it would be a transportation service available only to a restricted class of persons.

The Commission believes that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service and that there is no existing carrier service capable of meeting this specific need. Webb shall be granted temporary authority. Of course, the grant of temporary authority creates no presumption that corresponding permanent authority will be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

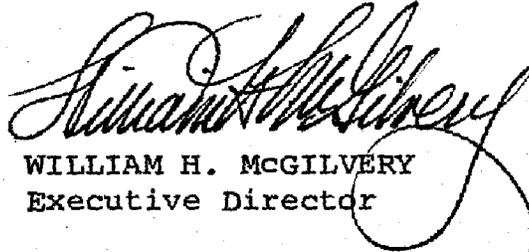
1. That Application No. 885 of Webb Tours, Inc., be, and it is hereby, granted.

2. That Webb Tours, Inc., be, and it is hereby, granted temporary authority to transport patrons of its "Spirit of 76 Tours", over irregular routes, in special operations, from hotels or motels in Maryland or Virginia which are within the Metropolitan District to downtown Washington, D. C., and return.

3. That Webb Tours, Inc., be, and it is hereby, required to file forthwith two copies of an appropriate WMATC Tariff No. 2 setting forth the rates for the transportation temporarily authorized herein, to be effective Thursday, October 30, 1975.

4. That unless otherwise provided by order of the Commission, the temporary authority granted herein shall become effective Thursday, October 30, 1975, and shall remain in effect through Saturday, January 17, 1976.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

