

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1490

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of WASHINGTON AREA) Served January 29, 1976
MINI-BUS TOURS for Certificate)
of Public Convenience and) Application No. 900
Necessity to Perform Charter)
Operations) Docket No. 306

By Application No. 900, filed December 23, 1975, Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours (Mini-Bus), the trade name for an operation controlled by Daniel S. Carver and Kenneth R. Strickland, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity, pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, to transport passengers, together with their baggage, over irregular routes, in charter operations, within a limited portion of the Metropolitan District. The charter operations would include group tours, group transportation and constructed tours. The proposed operations would be conducted from points within the Beltway (Route 495) to points within the District of Columbia, Alexandria, Virginia, Mount Vernon, Virginia, and return, and from points within the District of Columbia to points within the District of Columbia and to points within the Beltway, and return.

Mini-Bus would offer four sightseeing tours. The all day tour would involve a riding tour of Washington, Arlington National Cemetery, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, including stops at Ford's Theatre, Peterson's House, Capitol Building, White House (when open), gravesites of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for the Performing Arts, Christ Church in Alexandria, and Mount Vernon. The building tour would consist of visits at Ford's Theatre, Peterson's House, Capitol Building, White House (when open), and Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology. This tour includes interpretive sightseeing in the

Federal Triangle area of Washington. Two separate tours would be offered in the afternoon. One would be an interpretive tour of Washington and Arlington, including stops at the Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Kennedy gravesites, and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The other would be an interpretive tour of Washington, Alexandria, and Mount Vernon, including stops at Christ Church in Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

According to the proposed tariff filed as part of the application by Mini-Bus, the fares for these tours would be the per capita fare less 20 percent for groups of 10 persons or more. The following table summarizes the applicable charter fares per person.

<u>TOUR</u>	<u>ADULT FARE</u>	<u>CHILD FARE</u>
ALL DAY TOUR	\$ 19.20	\$ 8.80
BUILDING TOUR	8.00	4.00
WASHINGTON & ARLINGTON TOUR	8.80	4.40
WASHINGTON, ALEXANDRIA AND MOUNT VERNON TOUR	8.80	4.40

The child fare is applicable to persons under 12 years of age.

Mini-Bus would provide constructed tours. These tours would be rendered in either 11 passenger, 14 passenger, or 15 passenger vans. The following table summarizes the rates applicable to constructed tours.

<u>VEHICLE CAPACITY</u>	<u>RATE PER HOUR</u>	<u>MINIMUM CHARGE</u>
11 passenger	\$ 18	\$ 54
14 passenger	20	60
15 passenger	21	63

Mini-Bus also would provide charter services for purposes other than sightseeing. The following table summarizes the rates applicable to those charter services.

<u>VEHICLE CAPACITY</u>	<u>RATE PER HOUR</u>	<u>MINIMUM CHARGE</u>
11 passenger	\$ 15	\$ 45
14 passenger	17	51
15 passenger	18	54

Mini-Bus currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 28. That Certificate authorizes the performance of special operations limited to individually ticketed sightseeing service, over irregular routes, between points in the District of Columbia, that portion of Arlington County, Virginia, wherein is located Arlington National Cemetery and Iwo Jima Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia, and Mount Vernon, Virginia, including transportation from hotels and motels within the Metropolitan District to such points for the purpose of such sightseeing, and return. The performance of operations pursuant to that authority may be rendered in vehicles with a seating capacity of fifteen passengers excluding the driver and special accommodations for two additional wheelchair passengers.

Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact provides as follows:

When an application is made under this section for a certificate, . . . , the Commission shall issue a certificate to any qualified applicant therefor, . . . , if it finds, after hearing held upon reasonable notice, that the applicant is fit, willing and able to perform such transportation properly and to conform to the provisions of this Act and the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission thereunder, and that such transportation is or will be required by the public convenience and necessity; otherwise such application shall be denied. (Emphasis added.)

Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission shall schedule a hearing to develop an appropriate record. Mini-Bus shall be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to be sufficient to cover the expenses which the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19(a) requires the carrier to bear.

The reason for the hearing is to fully develop the basis for any findings as to Mini-Bus fitness to perform the proposed transportation service and the existing requirements of the public convenience and necessity for the proposed transportation service. The Commission shall require Mini-Bus to submit and be prepared to support with a competent witness a statement projecting revenues and revenue deductions, including taxes, for a one-year period, together with supporting details, including the ratio between revenue deductions and revenues. Mini-Bus shall be directed to file six (6) copies of the projection statement with the Commission and serve one copy on each party of record on or before February 27, 1976. Mini-Bus shall be prepared to present evidence that public convenience and necessity require the proposed service. Should Mini-Bus elect to submit prepared testimony at the hearing, then six (6) copies of said testimony also should be filed with the Commission and one copy served on each party of record on or before February 27, 1976.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Application No. 900 of Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours be, and it is hereby, scheduled for public hearing to commence Friday, March 5, 1976, at 10:00 A. M., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

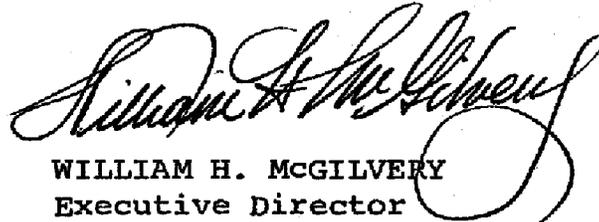
2. That Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District and post in each vehicle that it operates a notice in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission of such application and hearing no later than Wednesday, February 4, 1976, and present at the hearing a certificate of publication from the selected newspaper and a certification of posting.

3. That six (6) copies, the original to be submitted at the hearing, of the projection statement required hereinbefore and any prepared testimony be submitted by Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours to the Commission and one copy served on each party of record on or before Friday, February 27, 1976.

4. That any person desiring to protest shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall notify the Commission, in writing, on or before Monday, February 23, 1976, and shall mail a copy of such protest or notice to Kenneth R. Strickland, 5714-64th Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland 20840.

5. That Washington Area Mini-Bus Tours be, and it is hereby, assessed \$200 pursuant to the provisions of the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19 and directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., on or before Monday, March 1, 1976.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director