

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1497

IN THE MATTER OF:

Application of SUBURBAN)	Served February 10, 1976
TRANSIT COMPANY for)	
Temporary Authority to)	Application No. 906
Perform Special Operations)	

By Application No. 906, filed January 22, 1976, Suburban Transit Company (Suburban) seeks temporary authority pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact to perform special operations. Suburban proposes to transport passengers, over irregular routes, between the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill area of Prince George's County, Maryland, and Washington, D. C., and between the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill area and Crystal City, the Pentagon, and Rosslyn, Virginia.

Suburban would originate transportation services in the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill area between 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. and would originate transportation services in Washington, D. C., and Crystal City, the Pentagon, and Rosslyn, Virginia, between 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., on Monday through Friday. The per capita fare for a one way trip would be \$1.25. A reduced rate would be available to persons purchasing in advance a book of weekly tickets. Suburban would render the proposed transportation services in 49 passenger motor coach equipment.

Suburban currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 29. That Certificate authorizes the performance of special operations over irregular routes, from Gaithersburg, Maryland, Rockville, Maryland, Wheaton, Maryland, Reston, Virginia, Tyson's Corner, Virginia, Springfield, Virginia, or points in Washington, D. C., located at 16th and Kennedy Streets, N. W., and 4th and Michigan Avenue, N. W., to the Capital Centre, Largo, Maryland, and return. See Order No. 1485, served January 7, 1976.

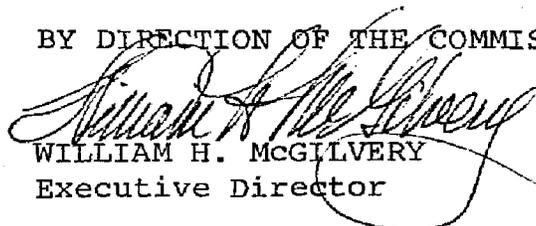
Under Title II, Article XII, Section 4 (d)(3) of the Compact, the Commission must base any decision to grant temporary authority to provide a specific service upon the findings that there is an immediate and urgent need to a point or points within a territory and that there is no carrier service capable of meeting such need. Failing to find either condition, the Commission may not grant temporary authority in its discretion and without hearings or other proceedings.

Suburban has supported its application with returned questionnaires. In early January, 1976, the questionnaires were delivered to each household in the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill community. The questionnaire seeks to elicit information concerning the commuting patterns of the persons living in that area. The returned questionnaires indicate that the persons completing the forms would prefer to use bus transportation to and from work if it were more convenient than the use of private automobiles and that they would support express bus service.

The returned questionnaires submitted in support of the application do not establish that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service. The returned questionnaires merely indicate that the persons completing the forms would prefer express bus service to and from work. Such preference does not suffice to establish that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service. Accordingly, the Commission finds that any need for the proposed service is not immediate and urgent. The Commission need not and does not consider the presence of any carrier service capable of meeting the need for the transportation of passengers, over irregular routes, between the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill area and Washington, D. C., and between the Fort Washington-Oxon Hill area and Crystal City, the Pentagon, and Rosslyn.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Application No. 906 of Suburban Transit Company for temporary authority to perform special operations be, and it is hereby, denied.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director