

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1963

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served February 16, 1979

Investigation of INTERSTATE)
TAXICAB RATES for Service within)
the Metropolitan District)

Case No. MP-79- 05

The Commission has the duty and the power to prescribe reasonable rates for interstate transportation by taxicab within the Metropolitan District. 1/ Such rates may be set on a mileage basis, a zone basis, or any other basis approved by the Commission, except that the Commission may not require meters where they are not already permitted or required. 2/

Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Md., and the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, Arlington County and Fairfax County, Va., taxicabs are equipped with meters which use a mileage-time basis for determining local fares. The taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are not equipped with meters and use a zone basis to determine local fares.

Where feasible and appropriate, the Commission has adopted the local taxicab rates as the interstate rates. Thus, we require locally licensed and regulated metered taxicabs to use their meters for fare determination on interstate taxicab trips. 3/ Their incidental charges generally apply except that a uniform charge of 40¢ for each additional passenger in excess of one has been adopted. 4/

District of Columbia taxicabs, however, operate on a zone basis which is not readily adaptable to interstate use. For these taxicabs the Commission has implemented a system of interstate rates based on odometer

1/ The Metropolitan District includes the District of Columbia, the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church, Va., the counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Va., and Montgomery and Prince George's, Md., and Dulles International Airport.

2/ See Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 8.

3/ This practice may be traced to Order No. 67, served October 9, 1961.

4/ Order No. 1501, served February 13, 1976.

mileage. The level of these rates was established most recently by Order No. 1500, served February 13, 1976. The following table sets forth comparative rate information as of the date of issuance of Order No. 1500.

TABLE I

	Actual Rates		Rates Converted To Miles	
	Initial Charge	Rate After Initial Charge	First Mile	Subsequent Miles
Alexandria	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	\$1.10	70¢
Arlington	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.10	70¢
District of Columbia	60¢ 1st 1/2	35¢ ea. 1/2	.95	70¢
Fairfax-Falls Church	60¢ 1st 2/3	10¢ ea. 1/6	.80	60¢
Montgomery	60¢ 1st 1/2	10¢ ea. 1/6	.90	60¢
Prince George's	90¢ 1st 4/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.20	70¢

The following table compares the interstate fares at the different rates for single passenger trips of 5, 10, and 15 miles without incidental charges, as of March 1, 1976, the effective date of Order No. 1500.

TABLE II

	<u>5 Miles</u>	<u>10 Miles</u>	<u>15 Miles</u>
Alexandria	\$3.90	\$7.40	\$10.90
Arlington	3.90	7.40	10.90
District of Columbia	3.75	7.25	10.75
Fairfax-Falls Church	3.20	6.20	9.20
Montgomery	3.30	6.30	9.30
Prince George's	4.00	7.50	11.00

Since Order No. 1500 was issued, several of the local jurisdictions using meters have prescribed new, higher local rates in response to the increasing costs involved in rendering taxicab service and the need, in the public interest, to maintain an adequate and efficient transportation service by taxicab operators at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service. Under our Order No. 67, these increases are automatically incorporated into the interstate fare system. On January 17, 1979, the District of Columbia Public Service Commission approved an interim increase of about 10 percent in the local zone fares effective January 21, 1979. In addition, the charge for each additional passenger in a group traveling together was increased from 50¢ to 65¢.

The Commission has reviewed the recent local increases and prepared the following two tables reflecting the current 5/ interstate rates and fares.

5/ A public hearing was scheduled for January 24, 1979, in Arlington, Va., to consider a proposed increase in taxicab fares. The matter will be further considered at the next meeting of the County Board on or about February 17, 1979.

TABLE IA

	Actual Rates		Rates Converted To Miles	
	Initial	Rate After	First	Subsequent
	Charge	Initial Charge	Mile	Miles
Alexandria	60¢ 1st 2/8	10¢ ea. 1/8	\$1.20	80¢
Arlington	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.10	70¢
District of Columbia	60¢ 1st 1/2	35¢ ea. 1/2	.95	70¢
Fairfax-Falls Church	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.10	70¢
Montgomery	60¢ 1st 2/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.10	70¢
Prince George's	90¢ 1st 4/7	10¢ ea. 1/7	1.20	70¢

TABLE IIA

	<u>5 Miles</u>	<u>10 Miles</u>	<u>15 Miles</u>
Alexandria	\$4.40	\$8.40	\$11.90
Arlington	3.90	7.40	10.90
District of Columbia	3.75	7.25	10.75
Fairfax-Falls Church	3.90	7.40	10.90
Montgomery	3.90	7.40	10.90
Prince George's	4.00	7.50	11.00

The existing interstate party rate of 40¢ (for each passenger in excess of one) has been in effect for all jurisdictions since March 1, 1976. The following table compares the party rates for intrastate service in effect at the time of Order No. 1500 with those in effect today.

TABLE III

	<u>03-01-76</u>	<u>Today</u>
Alexandria	25¢ ea.	50¢ ea.
Arlington	60¢ ea.	60¢ ea.
District of Columbia	50¢ ea.	65¢ ea.
Fairfax-Falls Church	25¢ ea. in excess of <u>two</u>	60¢ ea.
Montgomery	50¢ ea.	50¢ ea.
Prince George's	50¢ ea.	50¢ ea.

It is noted that some jurisdictions levy no charge or a lower charge for extra passengers who are children. For example, Arlington and Fairfax/Falls Church extra passenger charges apply to persons over 12 years of age, and in the District of Columbia to persons over 5 years of age. Alexandria levies a 25¢ charge for persons 6 to 12 years of age. WMATC extra passenger charges, like those of Montgomery and Prince George's, apply without regard to age.

For purposes of comparison, we note that the average adult intrastate rate at the time of Order No. 1500 was 39.1¢ for the first extra passenger and 44.4¢ for each subsequent passenger. Today that rate averages 55.8¢ each.

The Commission shall, on its own motion (see Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 13), institute an investigation to determine whether the current interstate taxicab rates prescribed for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission are unreasonable, or unduly discriminatory or unduly preferential either between riders or sections of the Metropolitan District (see Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6). If the Commission so finds, then it shall issue an order prescribing the lawful fares, regulation, or practices to be in effect.

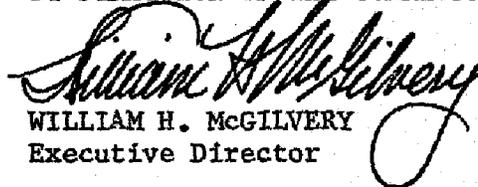
The Commission requests comments by interested parties on our staff's proposed interstate rate structure set forth in the appendix to this order for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. The Commission invites separate proposals of appropriate interstate rate structure other than that proposed herein. The proposals should be supported with statements justifying the change from the current to the proposed interstate rate structure. These proposals, views and statements should be filed with the Commission in writing on or before Monday, March 19, 1979.

The Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation be made of the existing interstate taxicab rates for taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia Public Service Commission.
2. That the Commission staff shall cause notice of this order to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District on or before Friday, February 23, 1979.
3. That any person desiring to file with the Commission written proposals, views and statements on this matter shall do so on or before Monday, March 19, 1979.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT
(in taxicabs licensed and regulated by the
District of Columbia Public Service Commission)

75¢ First 1/2 mile, or part thereof
35¢ Each additional 1/2 mile, or part thereof
50¢ Each additional passenger

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of 10¢ for each such piece. Briefcases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet.

The charge for personal service shall be 50¢; taxicab service in response to a telephone call, 50¢ in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, 50¢ in addition to the charge for responding; waiting time in excess of 5 minutes, 50¢ for each 5 minutes or fraction thereof up to a total of 45 minutes after which the rate of \$1.50 for each 15 minutes or fraction thereof shall apply.

The charge for a taxicab employed on an hourly basis shall be as follows:
For the first hour or fraction thereof -- \$7;
For each additional 15 minutes or fraction thereof -- \$1.75.