

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 2299

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served December 24, 1981

Application of WEBB TOURS, INC.,)
for Authority to Increase Rates)

Case No. AP-81-29

On November 25, 1981, Webb Tours, Inc., filed its WMATC Tariff No. 2 proposing to cancel its WMATC Tariff No. 1 which has been in effect since April 15, 1976. It is proposed that the new tariff, which contains increased rates for Webb's special and charter operations, would become effective on December 26, 1981. A summary of the existing and proposed charges follows:

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

<u>Tour</u>	<u>Existing Adult Fare</u>	<u>Proposed Adult Fare</u>	<u>Existing Child Fare*</u>	<u>Proposed Child Fare*</u>
Building Tour	\$ 9.00	\$14.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 7.00
Dis. of Col. and Arlington	9.00	14.00	4.50	7.00
Night City	9.00	14.00	4.50	7.00
Dinner Tour	15.00	14.00	10.50	7.00
		plus actual cost of meal		plus actual cost of meal
Regular Combination	15.00	25.00	7.50	14.00
Dinner Combination	22.50	25.00	13.50	14.00
		plus actual cost of meal		plus actual cost of meal
Mt. Vernon--Olde Town new		17.00	new	8.50

* Child Fare pertains to children under 12

CHARTER OPERATIONS

The current fare is the greater of \$.85 per mile or \$25 per hour with a minimum time of two hours service plus one hour garage time.

The proposed fare is \$44.50 per hour with a minimum time of three hours' service plus one hour garage time.

In support of its application Webb Tours filed financial exhibits which are available for inspection at the office of the Commission.

Title II, Article XII, Section 6(a)(1) of the Compact authorizes the Commission to suspend any fare, regulation or practice at any time prior to the effective date thereof. In considering whether such fare, regulation or tariff shall be suspended, the Commission must consider, inter alia, the financial condition of the carrier, its revenue requirements, and whether the carrier is being operated economically and efficiently. Further, the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 6(a)(2) mandates that fares, regulations or practices relating thereto must be just, reasonable, and not unduly preferential either between riders or sections of the Metropolitan District. Subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4) list additional considerations, including the need, in the public interest, of adequate and efficient transportation service by a carrier at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service, and the opportunity for a carrier to earn a net return of at least 6.5 percent after all taxes properly chargeable to transportation operations.

The staff's review of applicant's financial data indicates that more information is needed to determine the propriety of the proposed tariff. The additional information includes the basis for projecting operating income, classification of 1980 operating income and projected operating income according to source, i.e. tour service or charter operations, classification of projected operating expenses, and method of calculating the projected expenses.

Pursuant to the above-cited provision of the Compact, the proposed tariff will be suspended, and new rates will not be approved pending resolution of the questions raised by the staff.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that WMATC Tariff No. 2, filed November 25, 1981, by Webb Tours, Inc., is hereby suspended for a 90-day period beginning December 25, 1981, and continuing through March 24, 1982, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, COMMISSIONERS CLEMENT, SCHIFTER AND SHANNON:



GREGORY PAUL BARTH
Acting Executive Director