

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 2433

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served June 9, 1983

Application of CONGRESSIONAL TOURS,))
INC., for Temporary Authority to))
Conduct Charter and Special))
Operations))

Case No. AP-83-29

By application filed May 6, 1983, Congressional Tours, Inc., seeks temporary authority to transport passengers and their baggage, in special and charter operations, between points in the Metropolitan District. Only special operations would be restricted to sightseeing.

Applicant's Tour A includes the White House, U. S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of American History. Tour B consists of Tour A plus the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. Tour C embraces the White House, U. S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, the African Art Museum, Mary Bethune and Frederick Douglas homes. Prices and approximate duration are set forth below.

	<u>ADULT FARE</u>	<u>CHILD FARE (age unspecified)</u>	<u>DURATION</u>
TOUR A	\$12.50	\$6.50	4 hours
TOUR B	\$15.00	7.50	6 hours
TOUR C	\$15.00	7.50	6 hours

CHARTER SERVICE is \$30 an hour within the Metropolitan District.

Applicant proposes to use a 1983 20-passenger minibus, but has offered no equipment restriction. Its balance sheet (no date) shows assets of \$27,550, long-term debt of \$23,000 and a net worth of \$4,550. Congressional's operating statement for the first three months of 1983 shows sightseeing income of \$2,400, charter revenues of \$1,400 and a net income after provision for income taxes of \$650. A projected operating statement for April 1983 through March 1984 estimates revenues of \$70,200, operating expenses of \$54,660 and net after-tax income of \$13,020.

Congressional Tours states that additional service is required to meet what it believes will be ". . . a record tourist season." It states that it has made service commitments prior to being informed of the need to obtain authority from this Commission, and that denial of temporary authority could have a severe adverse impact on the financial structure of applicant's business. Congressional Tours contends that its tours are unique because of their identification with the Afro-American population of the United States. With respect to charter service, applicant intends to handle overflow business and thus assist other certificated operators.

Information Center for Handicapped Individuals, Inc. (ICHI), submitted a letter of support stating that there is ". . . virtually no transportation available to handicapped visitors to the city. . . ." The letter does not state, however, that ICHI has ever used Congressional Tours in the past or that it will use applicant's service in the future.

The President of the United Black Fund, Inc., of Greater Washington, D. C., provided a letter in support of the application, based upon Congressional's willingness to tour "Black sections which have a rich heritage" and because of the number of Black tourists that come to the Nation's Capital to visit.

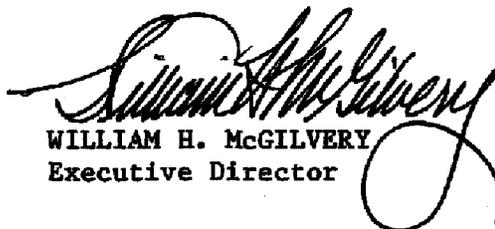
Webb Tours, Inc., has indicated its continuing opposition to any grant of new authority such as is proposed herein. Webb conducts both special and charter sightseeing operations. Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., and International Limousine Service, Inc., have indicated their objection to new grants of general charter authority in van or minibus type vehicles. All three carriers assert that they are capable of providing the service to which their opposition extends.

Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact sets forth the criteria for granting temporary authority. In this case, we find that applicant had failed to meet those criteria. The public support concerns the general desirability of service for handicapped or Black visitors and tourists. While we consider these matters important, there is no indication of any specific intention or need to use Congressional Tours, and there is no showing on this record that applicant's proposed charter operations would not be handled as well by protestants Beltway or International. In short, these are matters which would be raised more appropriately by Congressional in the context of its application AP-83-30 for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, scheduled for public hearing June 9, 1983. However, they do not meet the more stringent criteria for temporary authority. Accordingly, this application must be denied without

prejudice to the submission of additional evidence should applicant choose to seek reconsideration pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 16 of the Compact.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED That the application of Congressional Tours, Inc., in Case No. AP-83-29 is hereby denied.

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



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director