

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 2454

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served August 24, 1983

Application of BABEL TRAVEL)
 SERVICE, INC., for a Certificate of)
 Public Convenience and Necessity to)
 Conduct Charter and Special)
 Operations)

Case No. AP-83-46

By application filed August 16, 1983, Babel Travel Service, Inc., seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity to transport passengers and their baggage, in special and charter operations, between points in the Metropolitan District in 15-passenger vans. Applicant proposes to serve tourists arriving in the Washington area from abroad, chiefly Latin America, Italy, France, Germany and Spain. Inasmuch as its clients cannot speak English, Babel provides both foreign-language escorts to assist them at the airport and the hotels and foreign-language sightseeing guides for tours.

Babel's transportation services are part of comprehensive tour packages offered by travel wholesalers located in Orlando, Fla., New York, N. Y., Rutherford, N. J., or overseas. These wholesalers (from their brochures) appear to function as brokers who arrange air and ground transportation, hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours and other events. Accordingly, applicant's rate structure is based on the number of persons in a group even though the service appears to be charter because the group is preformed with a common purpose and acquires use of Babel's vehicle under a single contract. The rate structure follows.

SIGHTSEEING

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS 1/

	1	2	3-5	6-14	15-30	31+
D. C. & Arlington Cemetery	\$32	\$16	\$15	\$14	\$13	\$11
Alexandria & Mt. Vernon	36	18	16.50	15.25	14.50	13.50
D. C. at night	34	17	16	15	13	11
Residential & shopping areas	36	18	16.50	15.25	14.50	13.50

1/ For groups of more than 14 persons, transportation is actually performed by a bus operator, mainly Gold Line, Inc., according to evidence filed in Case No. AP-83-31.

TRANSFERS

Washington National Airport or bus/train terminals	21	10.50	8.50	7.50	6.75	6.50
Dulles International Airport	32	16	12.75	11.50	9.75	8.50

These prices include the foreign-language escort/guide but exclude gratuities. 2/

Babel operates four vans, each with a seating capacity of 15 passengers or less, including the driver. Appropriate evidence of insurance for these vehicles is on file.

Applicant's balance sheet, dated July 31, 1983, shows current assets of \$16,551, total assets (net of depreciation) of \$29,568, current liabilities of \$3,422, no long-term liabilities and equity of \$26,146. Babel's profit-and-loss statement for the first seven months of 1983 reflects income of \$94,429, expenses of \$65,077 and a before-income-tax profit of \$29,352.

Pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, this application must be scheduled for a public hearing to determine if the applicant is fit, willing and able properly to perform the proposed service and to abide by pertinent regulatory requirements, and to determine if the public convenience and necessity requires the proposed service. Applicant will be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to cover the cost of the hearing and will be required to submit a statement of projected revenue and expenses.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Case No. AP-83-44 of Babel Travel Service, Inc., is hereby scheduled to commence Wednesday, September 28, 1983, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

2. That applicant publish once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District, and post continually and conspicuously in each of its vehicles through the date of public hearing, notice of this application and hearing, in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Friday, September 2, 1983, and present at the hearing an affidavit of publication from the selected newspaper.

2/ Gratuities may not be included in a carrier's charges absent the express permission of this Commission.

3. That any person desiring to protest the application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall so notify the Commission, in writing, no later than Monday, September 12, 1983, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest or notice on counsel for applicant, William H. Shawn, Esquire, 1730 M Street, N. W., Suite 501, Washington, D. C. 20036.

4. That applicant is hereby assessed \$750 pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact, and is directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Commission, Suite 316, 1625 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006 no later than Wednesday, September 14, 1983.

5. That applicant file with the Commission no later than September 14, 1983, four copies of a statement of projected revenues and revenue deductions anticipated from its first 12-month period of operations, simultaneously serve one copy of such statement on each party of record as of September 12, 1983, and produce the original thereof at the public hearing.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director