

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 2538

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served March 20, 1984

Application of THE AIRPORT)
CONNECTION, INC., for Temporary)
Authority -- Scheduled Airport)
Service)

Case No. AP-84-10

By application filed March 6, 1984, The Airport Connection, Inc., seeks temporary authority to transport passengers together with mail, express and baggage, over regular routes, serving the points described below.

The Airport Connection (TAC) recently executed a contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to be the primary ground transportation provider at Washington National and Dulles International Airports. That contract is to become effective May 1, 1984. TAC proposes to commence service over the routes described below effective April 1, 1984, inasmuch as (a) it believes that there are a large number of passengers desiring service along these routes and (b) there exists no scheduled service on these routes. TAC would provide service in 11-passenger vans and motor coaches.

TAC proposes the following fare schedule: 1/

<u>BETWEEN</u>	<u>ONE WAY</u>	<u>ROUND TRIP 2/</u>
Bowie and Metro/Amtrak Stations (New Carrollton)	\$ 4	\$ 7
Bowie and National Airport	12	22
New Carrollton and National Airport	8	15
Gaithersburg and National Airport	15	25
Gaithersburg and Dulles Airport	15	25

Based on these fares, TAC anticipates annual revenues of \$120,000 and expenses of \$111,680 for an operating ratio of approximately 93.1. Generally, service would be scheduled between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.

1/ Coupons for \$1 off each trip will be redeemable during the first 90 days of operations.

2/ Round-trip tickets will be valid for 60 days from the date of issuance and are not transferable.

Both the Gaithersburg Marriott Inn and the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg submitted affidavits in support of the application. Both inns state that their guests and members of the Gaithersburg community have an immediate and urgent need for scheduled service to and from the airports. According to the Marriott and Holiday Inns, existing carriers (Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., Airport Limo, Inc., and Frederick Limo, Inc.) have not ". . . been able to provide the regular, reliable route service proposed by TAC."

The FAA also supports this application. FAA states that the routes proposed by TAC are not being served by Airport Limo, the incumbent ground transportation contractor. FAA estimates that the potential ridership for the proposed routes could exceed 9,000 passengers a week.

Airport Limo, Beltway and Frederick Limo were notified about this application by the staff of the Commission, and these carriers have not protested the granting of the temporary authority set forth below.

Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact provides that the Commission may grant temporary authority where there is an immediate and urgent need for service and no carrier is capable of meeting that need. The evidence here shows that those conditions are satisfied. FAA has determined that the proposed routes will serve a significant number of passengers, and carriers holding authority to serve the airports are not providing a regular service along the proposed routes. Accordingly, temporary authority should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That The Airport Connection is hereby granted temporary authority to transport passengers and mail, express and baggage, in the same vehicles with passengers, between the points and over the regular routes described below:

(a) from the junction of U.S. Highway 50 and the Prince George's-Anne Arundel County line, over U.S. Highway 50 to junction U.S. Highway 301, then over U.S. Highway 301 to Maryland Highway 197, then over Maryland Highway 197 to U.S. Highway 50, then over U.S. Highway 50 to Interstate Highway 295, then over Interstate Highway 295 to South Capitol Street, then over South Capitol Street to Interstate Highway 395, then over Interstate Highway 395 to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, then over the George Washington Memorial Parkway to Washington National Airport, Gravelly Point, Va., and return over the same route, serving Bowie, Md., and the WMATA and Amtrak rail stations at New Carrollton, Md., as intermediate points and serving the Ramada Inn and Sheraton Inn on Maryland Highway 450, New Carrollton, Md., as off-route points.

(b)(1) from Gaithersburg, Md., over Interstate Highway 270 to Interstate Highway 495, then over Interstate Highway 495 to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, then over the George Washington Memorial Parkway to Washington National Airport, Gravelly Point, Va., and return over the same route serving no intermediate points; or

(b)(2) as an alternate to Route (b)(1), from Gaithersburg, Md., over Interstate Highway 270 to Interstate Highway 495, then over Interstate Highway 495 to the Dulles Airport Access Road, then over the Dulles Airport Access Road to Interstate Highway 66, then over Interstate Highway 66 to Virginia Highway 110, then over Virginia Highway 110 to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, then over the George Washington Memorial Parkway to Washington National Airport, Gravelly Point, Va., and return over the same route serving no intermediate points.

(c) from Gaithersburg, Md., over Interstate Highway 270 to Interstate Highway 495, then over Interstate Highway 495 to the Dulles Airport Access Road, then over the Dulles Airport Access Road to Dulles International Airport, Herndon, Va., and return over the same route serving no intermediate points.

2. That applicant is hereby directed to file two copies each of the following documents: (a) its WMATC Temporary Authority Tariff No. AP-84-10 in conformance with Commission Regulation No. 55; (b) an affidavit of compliance with Regulation No. 68-03 governing identification of vehicles; (c) a list of the vehicles to be used for performing the temporary authority operations showing make, model, year of manufacture, seating capacity and license tag number for each vehicle; and (d) a certificate of insurance in conformance with Commission Regulation No. 62.

3. That the filings directed herein be made no later than March 26, 1984.

4. That upon compliance with the filing directives herein, the temporary authority granted herein shall be effective on April 1, 1984, and shall terminate at 11:59 p.m. on September 27, 1984, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

5. That if applicant intends to operate this service beyond the period of temporary authority authorized herein, appropriate

application shall be filed within 30 days of the date of this order to permit time for orderly processing.

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



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director