

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 3292

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served February 21, 1989

Application of CUSTOM TOURS OF)
WASHINGTON, INC., for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity)
-- Special Operations)

Case No. AP-89-05

By application filed January 19, 1989, Custom Tours of Washington, Inc. (Custom Tours or applicant), seeks to transport passengers as follows:

IRREGULAR ROUTES:

PART A

SPECIAL OPERATIONS, transporting passengers in sightseeing tours:

- (1) From motels and motor inns located at points on that part of U.S. Highway 1 south of junction U.S. Highway 1 and Interstate Highway 395 at or near Arlington, Va., and north of junction U.S. Highway 1 and Interstate Highway 95 at or near Woodbridge, Va., to points in the District of Columbia, and the City of Alexandria and Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Va., and return.
- (2) From Holiday Inn, junction Interstate Highway 395 and Glebe Road, Arlington County, Va.; and Virginia Motel, 700 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Va.; to points in the District of Columbia and the City of Alexandria and Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Va.; and return.

PART B

SPECIAL OPERATIONS, transporting passengers, restricted to lectured, round-trip sightseeing tours, between Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and points in that part of the District of Columbia south of a line beginning at the junction of Constitution Avenue, N.W., and Rock Creek Parkway, N.W., thence along Constitution Avenue, N.W., to 17th Street, N.W., thence along

17th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to 10th Street, N.W., thence along 10th Street, N.W., to F Street, N.W., thence along F Street, N.W., to 9th Street, N.W., thence along 9th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to Constitution Avenue, N.W., thence along Constitution Avenue to its junction with 2nd Street, N.E.

RESTRICTED IN PARTS (A) AND (B) ABOVE:

- (a) to transportation in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of between 16 and 48 passengers, including the driver; and
- (b) against transportation solely within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Applicant currently holds WMATC Certificate No. 43 which authorizes the transportation described above in vehicles with a manufacturer's seating capacity of 15 passengers or less, including the driver.

Applicant would conduct the proposed operations using one 1989 25-passenger vehicle and one 1989 29-passenger vehicle. Applicant plans to offer five tours. Tour I ("All Day Deluxe Tour") would include interior visits to the White House, the Capitol, Supreme Court, Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery, with an observation tour of numerous other historical sites. The proposed fare is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. Tour II ("Alternate All-Day Tour") would provide interior visits to Ford's Theater, the Petersen House, and F.B.I. Headquarters. The tour also includes a 3-hour stop on the Mall. The charge would be \$27.50 for adults and \$13.75 for children. Tour III ("Two Day Grand Tour") is a combination of Tours I and II; the price would be \$50 for adults and \$25 for children. Tour IV ("Washington After Dark") includes a visit to the Iwo Jima Memorial and an observation tour of the Lincoln Memorial, White House, Washington Monument, and the Capitol; \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children would be charged. Tour V ("Concert Evening at Washington Monument") provides transportation for patrons to a concert presented by the U.S. Air Force at the Washington Monument with an observation tour of points of interest after the concert. The charge would be \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children. Tour availability varies seasonally.

Applicant's balance sheet as of December 31, 1988, shows current assets in cash of \$12,000 with fixed assets, after allowance for depreciation, of \$17,940. No liabilities are listed. Applicant shows \$29,940 in equity. With its application, Custom Tours submitted a pro forma income statement that projects revenues of \$150,000 and concomitant expenses of \$92,500 for operations in 1989. It is unclear

from the financial data whether the expected revenues and expenses have been allocated between applicant's current operations and its proposed operations. Applicant will be asked at hearing to address this matter.

Pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, the application will be scheduled for public hearing to determine if applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed service properly and comply with the Compact and the Commission's rules and regulations and to determine whether the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service. Applicant will be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to cover the costs of hearing pursuant to the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 19.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That a public hearing in Case No. AP-89-05 is hereby scheduled to commence on Tuesday, April 4, 1989, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104.
2. That Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., shall publish once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District, and post continuously and conspicuously in each of its vehicles through the date of public hearing, notice of this application and the hearing thereon in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Friday, March 3, 1989, and shall present at the hearing affidavits of publication and posting.
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 shall so notify the Commission, in writing, no later than Wednesday, March 22, 1989, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such notice or protest on Mr. Keith Jones, President, Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., 11200 Lenox Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.
4. That Custom Tours of Washington, Inc., is hereby assessed \$400 pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact, and is directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104, no later than Wednesday, March 22, 1989.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


William H. McGilvery
Executive Director

