

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 3407

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served September 15, 1989

Application of MICHELINE )  
INTERNATIONAL TOURS INC., for )  
Temporary Authority -- Charter and )  
Special Operations )

Case No. AP-89-47

By application filed September 7, 1989, Micheline International Tours Inc. (MIT or applicant), a Virginia corporation, seeks temporary authority to transport passengers in for-hire charter and special operations (together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicle as passengers) between points in the Metropolitan District, \*/ restricted to service in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15 persons or less. MIT plans to conduct the proposed operations in one 1989 15-passenger vehicle. Three tours would be offered. Tour No. 1 "City Tour" would include a riding tour of Pennsylvania Avenue, the Federal Triangle, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and Arlington National Cemetery. Stops would be made at the U.S. Capitol, and Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorials. Tour No. 2 would be a "Night Tour" including an observation tour of Embassy Row, Iwo Jima Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, U.S. Capitol, and the White House; stops would be made at Georgetown and the Lincoln Memorial. The proposed fare for both tours is \$25 a person. Each tour is four hours. Applicant's third tour is the "Mt. Vernon Tour" which includes stops at Old-Town Alexandria, Christ Church, and Mount Vernon. The tour is four hours and would cost \$30 a person. Charter transfer service to/from Washington National Airport would be provided at a rate of \$80. Charter transfers to/from Washington Dulles International Airport would be \$120. Charter transfers to/from Greyhound Trailways, 1005 - 1st Street, N.E., and Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., would be \$60. Foreign language driver/guide assistance would be available for charter services at no additional cost. Applicant's proposed tariff lists a \$20 rate for all step-on guide service. However, it is unclear how the rate would be applied. MIT will be required to provide a written explanation of the step-on guide service.

Applicant submitted a statement of financial condition as of August 31, 1989, which shows \$37,529 in assets after depreciation, with \$33,889 in cash, \$10,550 in liabilities, and \$26,979 in equity. For the first year of WMATC operations applicant projects \$108,000 in operating income and \$81,021 in expenses.

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\*/ To the extent this application could be construed to include transportation solely within the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is hereby dismissed pursuant to the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 1(b).

MIT submitted four verified statements in support of its application. Ms. Susan Lazcano is director of guest services at the Mayflower Hotel. The hotel serves a large number of foreign guests. Ms. Lazcano feels that there is a "definite need" for a company that can provide multilingual tours. To date the hotel has been unable to find another carrier to provide service satisfactory to its needs, which are expected to increase in the fall.

Mr. Alessandra Moujaes, concierge at the Grand Hotel, supports the application. Thirty-five percent of hotel guests are from other countries. Requests for tours in French and Spanish are received regularly. Mr. Moujaes believes that there is an "urgent and immediate need" for applicant's services because of the upcoming Fall season which is traditionally busy with an influx of tourists from abroad. The affiant believes that no other carrier can satisfactorily provide packaged tours with guides at reasonable prices.

Ms. Marianne Cruze is executive director of the International Visitors Information Service, a private non-profit community organization that provides a variety of services and programs to international and American visitors. Ms. Cruze attested to an "urgent and immediate" need for the proposed service of the applicant. The letter states that there is an increased number of international visitors to Washington and an insufficient number of carriers to serve their needs.

The last letter of support was submitted by Mr. Steve Bagley, concierge at the Willard Inter Continental. A significant number of the hotel's guests require sightseeing packages that offer tours in French and Spanish. Mr. Bagley has found that no other carrier is capable of providing the services required by the Willard and feels that there is an "immediate and urgent" need for MIT's proposed operations, especially since the number of foreign guests continues to grow.

The standards for temporary authority are set forth in the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). The essential elements are (1) immediate and urgent need for service, (2) no other carrier capable of meeting such need, and (3) fitness of the applicant.

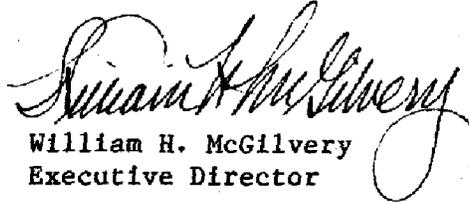
This order will provide notice of the application, and a brief time will be provided for the filing of protests, if any. Protests should contain all evidence and argument upon which protestant would rely. No extension of the time will be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That any person desiring to protest this application must file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14 at the office of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5140, no later than Tuesday, September 26, 1989, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest on applicant's president, Micheline B. Lavalley, 3058 Shadeland Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044.

2. That Micheline International Tours Inc., shall file with the Commission, no later than Tuesday, September 26, 1989, an original and four copies of a written explanation as to how the charge for step-on guide service is to be applied.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

  
William H. McGilvery  
Executive Director

