

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 3535

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served August 3, 1990

Application of RAPIDTRANS, INC.,)
for Temporary Authority to Conduct)
Charter Operations for the Account)
of D.C. CHARTERED HEALTH PLAN, INC.)

Case No. AP-90-28

By application filed July 25, 1990, and completed July 30, 1990, RAPIDTRANS, Inc. (RTI or applicant), seeks temporary authority to transport passengers, together with mail and express in the same vehicles as passengers, in charter operations between health care facilities in Washington, DC, on the one hand, and, on the other, points in Washington, DC, restricted to transportation for the account of D.C. Chartered Health Plan, Inc. (Chartered) 1/

The proposed service would be provided using three 1990, 15-passenger vehicles, each equipped with two-way radio. The vehicles would be leased. Pursuant to contract with Chartered, RTI would provide non-emergency transportation 24-hours a day for Chartered's members who are participants in the Medicaid Program of the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS). Chartered's members are primarily ambulatory women and children. Applicant would be compensated at the rate of \$1.10 per month per each of Chartered's members covered by contract with DHS.

With its application RTI submitted a balance sheet as of August 1, 1990, showing current assets of \$2,720 and fixed assets of \$3,916. The balance sheet lists current liabilities of \$6,536, no long-term liabilities, and \$100 in equity. With its application RTI also submitted a projection of income and expenses for the proposed operations. RTI expects to generate revenue of \$86,625 and incur expenses of \$109,834 during the first six months of operations, resulting in an operating ratio of 126.8. Over 12 months of operations RTI projects an operating ratio of 101.9. 2/

1/ RTI's application requests authority "[t]o provide transportation services for D.C. Chartered Health Plan, Inc.-AFDC MEDICAID Program members and Corporate courier services." The authority requested was reworded to reflect the geographic area and type of service contained in the body of the application. The Commission has no jurisdiction over courier service except as provided in the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(2) might be interpreted to provide.

2/ If this application is granted, RTI's operating authority would be limited by statute to 180 days. It is assumed that applicant will seek permanent authority although no application has yet been filed.

On July 30, 1990, Ms. Zandra White, Chartered's Assistant Chief Executive, Health Service Administration, submitted a notarized letter on Chartered's behalf in support of the application. The letter states that Chartered is under a contractual obligation to provide transportation for its members. Ms. White attests that Chartered requires transportation for its medical assistance members on a 24-hour basis and that the need for the proposed services is "immediate". According to Ms. White, Chartered's contract with its current transportation provider terminates on July 31, 1990. Applicant was selected as a replacement carrier because of its willingness to render transportation on a 24-hour basis, its van fleet capability, and its office coordination skills.

The standards for temporary authority are set forth in the Compact, Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). The essential elements are (1) an 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 RTI's application, and a brief period will be established for the filing of protests, if any. Each protest should contain or be accompanied by all evidence and argument upon which protestant would rely. No extension of time will be granted. The application is available for inspection at the office of the Commission during its regular business hours.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that any person desiring to protest this application shall file a notarized protest in conformance with Commission Rule No. 14, together with all evidence and legal argument in support of the protest, at the office of the Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104, no later than Monday, August 13, 1990, and, simultaneously, shall serve a copy of such protest on applicant's counsel, Clifford E. Barnes, Esquire, 1227 - 25th Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


William H. McGilvery
Executive Director