

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1218

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served June 9, 1972

Application of Washington,)
Virginia and Maryland Coach)
Company, Inc., for Authority)
to Increase Fares.)

Application No. 775

Docket No. 247

On May 25, 1972, Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company, Inc. (W. V. & M.), filed revisions to its Tariff No. 35 which would increase all of its interstate regular route fares by 10 cents, effective June 26, 1972. The Tariff was accompanied by supporting data as required by Rule 56-01(c). In addition, W. V. & M. filed a Motion for an Interim Order Adjusting its Schedule of Fares requesting a five-cent increase for all of its interstate regular route fares pending final determination of its application.

Testimony submitted in support of Application No. 775 is to the effect that W. V. & M. has been operating at a loss during recent months and that, due to the refusal of its parent D. C. Transit System, Inc., to extend additional credit, it is having and will continue to have difficulties in providing all scheduled operations if financial relief is not forthcoming. We are aware that W. V. & M. has recently been failing to operate an increasing number of its scheduled trips. The most recent weekly reports of scheduled trips not operated filed with this Commission by W. V. & M. reveals that from May 8 through May 20, 1972, the company failed to operate 455 scheduled trips, including 89 on Saturday, May 13.

The service reduction problem and the matter of financial need of the carrier should receive immediate attention. Therefore, we will suspend the proposed Tariff and schedule an early hearing for the purpose of hearing first, testimony concerning

both the extent of the recent unauthorized service reductions, and the need for an interim increase; and then, for receipt of the company's direct testimony and cross-examination thereon.

Any party who wishes to be heard on the service reductions or the interim increase should be prepared with his presentation on the first day of hearing. In order that all parties will have an opportunity to be aware of what evidence the other parties intend to submit on these issues and thus be able to fully cross-examine, we will require that all direct testimony be submitted in writing in conformance with Rule 23-04, except that testimony and any exhibits must be distributed to all parties so as to insure receipt by Tuesday, June 27, 1972.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Application No. 775 of Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company, Inc., be, and it is hereby, scheduled for public hearing to commence Friday, June 30, 1972, at 10:00 A.M., in the Hearing Room of the Commission, Room 314, 1625 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

2. That applicant post notice of such hearing in all of its buses no later than Wednesday, June 14, 1972.

3. That applicant publish notice of these hearings in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District no later than June 19, 1972.

4. That the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company, Inc., revisions to its WMATC Tariff No. 35, filed May 25, 1972, be, and they are hereby, suspended effective June 26, 1972.

5. That the time for receipt of formal protests to Application No. 775 be, and it is hereby, extended to June 26, 1972.

6. That any party wishing to present direct testimony and exhibits relating to the matters of W. V. & M.'s recent failure to operate all scheduled service or W. V. & M.'s need for interim relief shall submit all such materials to the Commission in advance with service on all parties so as to insure receipt by Tuesday, June 27, 1972.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


DOUGLAS N. SCHNEIDER, JR.
Executive Director