

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1221

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served June 22, 1972

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Discontinue Route 44 (Owl). )

Application No. 765

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Discontinue Route 80 (Owl). )

Application No. 766

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Discontinue Route 82 (Owl). )

Application No. 767

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Change Routes 91, 94 (Owl). )

Application No. 768

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Discontinue Route A-8 (Owl). )

Application No. 769

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Discontinue Route V-4 (Owl). )

Application No. 770

Application of D. C. Transit )  
System, Inc., for Authority to )  
Change Routes U-6 and X-2 (Owl). )

Application No. 771

Docket No. 245

On March 17, 1972, D. C. Transit System, Inc. (Transit) filed applications and schedule adjustments which would reduce and alter its early morning Owl service within the District of Columbia. In Order No. 1211, served April 14, 1972, we suspended the proposed changes and scheduled a public hearing for June 6, 1972.

During the June 6 hearing, the General Counsel for the Commission moved that the hearing be adjourned or continued until Transit conducted a survey of the people presently riding the Owl service during the affected time periods. The purpose of such survey would be to obtain information as to who is presently riding the Owl service, why they are riding it and what alternatives are available to them if they no longer have this transportation.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer, Chairman Jeremiah C. Waterman, granted the motion. However, after objection by Counsel for Transit, Chairman Waterman deferred final ruling until the full Commission could act upon the motion.

We have carefully examined the applications, the transcript, and the arguments presented during the hearing for and against the motion and we agree that the information referred to above is a necessary ingredient to Transit's application. We further believe that the procedure suggested by Counsel for the Commission, that is, a two day, on-board survey conducted by someone other than the operator of the bus, utilizing a questionnaire similar to the one already prepared by the Commission staff, is the most desirable way of obtaining that information from the Owl service patrons.

We shall therefore grant the motion to continue the hearing in this matter until such time as Transit has completed such a survey. We shall leave the specific details of the survey to be worked out jointly between Transit and the Commission staff. When the survey has been completed and Transit advises us of its desire to present the results to us, we shall schedule an additional hearing.

One further matter: Transit's Counsel requests permission to charge the cost of such survey against an escrow fund. Presumably, he has in mind the Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects Account, which was set up for service improvement projects, or the Marketing Fund which was set up to develop programs to impart information to Transit's riders and potential riders about the specifics of its service. The information that we are requesting today, however, is not to improve the company's service or convey information concerning it, but rather to enable Transit to meet its burden of substantiating its application

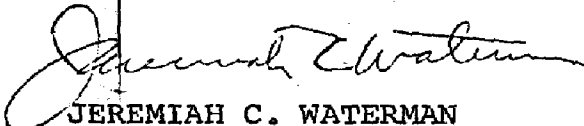
to reduce Owl service. In these circumstances, we believe that the cost of the survey should be borne by the company in the normal manner and shall order that it not be charged against the Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects, the Marketing Fund, or any other escrow fund.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the motion of the General Counsel for the Commission that the hearing be adjourned or continued until the company conducts a survey of its Owl service ridership during the affected time periods be, and it is hereby, granted.

2. That the cost of such survey shall not be charged against the Reserve for Commission-Ordered Projects, the Marketing Fund, or any other escrow fund.

**BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:**

  
**JEREMIAH C. WATERMAN**  
Chairman

