

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1296

IN THE MATTER OF:

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES - ) Served December 28, 1973  
Open Cab System at Washington )  
National Airport )

By letter received December 27, 1973, the Commission has been advised by the Manager of National Capital Airports, Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), that an "open cab" system will be put into effect at Washington National Airport (National) as of January 1, 1974. As a result of this information the Commission has decided to issue this Order as guidance for taxicab operators subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission who might be involved in the "open cab" system.

According to FAA, the "open cab" system will require taxicabs picking up passengers within designated pickup zones upon National to first pay a fee for each such pickup of one or more passengers. The fee will be 50 cents. Taxicabs discharging passengers brought onto National will not have to pay a fee. In addition, taxicabs picking up passengers between the hours of 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M., and taxicabs picking up passengers in areas of the airport not designated as taxicab pickup zones, will not have to pay a fee. In order to collect the fee, dispatchers will direct the movement of taxicabs wishing to pick up passengers into the designated pickup zones. Before coming to the point of passenger pickup, each taxicab would pass through a toll gate or similar control device, at which point the fee will be paid.

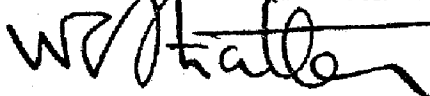
This Commission has the duty and the power to prescribe reasonable rates for transportation by taxicab between a point in the jurisdiction of one signatory party and a point in the jurisdiction of another signatory party provided both points are within the Metropolitan District. See Compact, Article XIII, Section 8. In fulfillment of this duty and pursuant to this power, we have prescribed the interstate taxicab rates. See Order No. 1295, served December 28, 1973. These rates are the only fares which taxicab operators are permitted to charge for transportation subject to our jurisdiction. A fare for such transportation not based on the existing rate structure would be a violation of the Compact. Accordingly, if an

amount more than currently prescribed were to be charged by a taxicab operator transporting a passenger or passengers from National to the District of Columbia or Maryland, then the operator would be in violation of the Compact.

In order to assure that members of the public using taxicabs are fully informed of the current interstate taxicab rate structure, we shall require all taxicab operators who provide transportation between a point in the jurisdiction of one signatory party and a point in the jurisdiction of another signatory party provided both are within the Metropolitan District, to post conspicuously inside their vehicles the current applicable interstate taxicab rates. The notice to the public shall contain the applicable rate together with a statement that the fee assessed by the National Capital Airports upon taxicabs picking up passengers thereon is not properly included in the fare to be charged.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that all taxicabs performing transportation service between a point in the jurisdiction of one signatory party and a point in the jurisdiction of another signatory party provided both points are within the Metropolitan District, be, and they are hereby, required to post conspicuously a sign in the taxicab which states the applicable interstate rate together with a statement that the fee assessed at Washington National Airport by the National Capital Airports upon taxicabs picking up passengers thereon is not properly included in the fare to be charged.

BY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. R. Stratton", written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM R. STRATTON  
Commissioner