

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 2312

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served February 12, 1982

Establishing Interim Commuter)
Bus Service for Laurel, Md., to) Case No. MP-82-01
be Provided by BELTWAY LIMOUSINE)
SERVICE, INC.)

During recent months, commuter service between Laurel, Md., and Washington, D. C., has been operated by U. S. Bus Lines, Inc., as part of a regular route authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission. U. S. Bus has announced that it will cease doing business on February 14, 1982, and it appears to us that the cessation of ICC authorized service on that date is inevitable.

In response to this situation, the Commission's staff contacted several carriers about providing service. Some of these carriers expressed interest only if fare-box revenues were subsidized by Prince George's County. Contacts with the County Administrator's office indicate that no subsidy would be made available at this time.

Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., which holds WMATC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 25, is the only carrier which has expressed a willingness to provide an interim service without a public subsidy, and Beltway can make equipment available beginning Tuesday, February 16, 1982. Beltway can commit enough vehicles initially to transport approximately 150 persons on schedules as described below:

Depart Laurel Town Center	Depart Farragut Square (D.C.)
6:30 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
6:45 a.m.	5:45 p.m.
7:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.

This schedule is designed to accommodate the regular travelling times of over 70 percent of the current ridership. Because of existing commitments, Beltway cannot initially accommodate those riders who desire to travel between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Equipment is available for departures prior to 6:30 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. should

customer demand therefor becomes manifest. So that it may become more familiar with the needs of the Laurel commuters, Beltway has established a telephone service (622-0700) for providing information and taking reservations. Inasmuch as demand may exceed supply, seats will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Beltway's preliminary calculations indicate that a per-capita fare equivalent to \$2.50 a ride is required to cover the carrier's cost of operation.

Normally, the Commission handles situations involving an immediate and urgent need for service under the application procedures established pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact. Under the circumstances here present, Beltway's management must devote its efforts toward preparing for operations to begin next Tuesday and cannot file a temporary authority application until next week.


Title II, Article XII, Section 4(e) of the Compact permits that Commission, if it finds that the public convenience and necessity so require, to require a carrier subject to our jurisdiction to provide additional service within the Metropolitan District. This power is one which we exercise only in the rarest of circumstances and on the most limited possible basis. Seldom, however, have we seen a situation as compelling as the plight of the Laurel area commuters. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the public convenience and necessity requires that Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., be directed to provide additional service between points in the Metropolitan District as described below.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., is directed to commence transporting passengers, in special operations, between Laurel, Md., and Washington, D. C., on Tuesday, February 16, 1982, and to continue such service through Friday, February 19, 1982.
2. That Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., is further directed to establish the departure schedules referenced in this Order, and to add such additional schedules as may prove practical with a view toward providing, insofar as may be possible, service at the times and places convenient to the residents of the Laurel, Md., community.
3. That Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., is further directed to sell commuter tickets, each valid for eight one-way trips during the period covered by this Order, at a price of \$20 per ticket.
4. That Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., is invited to file an application for temporary authority to continue the service mandated herein by Wednesday, February 17, 1982, or, in the alternative, to advise the Commission that an extension of this Order will be required.

5. That Beltway Limousine Service, Inc., is encouraged to continue its cooperation with the staff of the Commission so that the service mandated herein may be expanded and improved for the benefit of the public on the most expedited possible basis.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, COMMISSIONERS CLEMENT, SCHIFTER AND SHANNON:



WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director