

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2923

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served October 29, 1986

Application of LION TRANSPORTATION)
for Temporary Authority)

Case No. AP-86-39

By application filed October 16, 1986, Lion Transportation seeks temporary authority to transport passengers, together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicles with passengers, in special operations between The Carlyle Suites, 1731 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.; the Dupont Plaza, 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.; the Embassy Row, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; and the Omni Georgetown Hotel, 2121 P Street, N.W., all in Washington, D.C., and Washington National Airport, Gravelly Point, Va.

Applicant proposes a scheduled service with hotel pickups at intervals of approximately one and one-half hours between 6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The rate proposed for this service is \$5 a person, one-way. In its operations Lion Transportation would use a 1977 van of unspecified seating capacity and a 1982 four-passenger sedan.

The application includes a letter of support from John W. Holmes, general manager of the Dupont Plaza. Mr. Holmes has received numerous requests for scheduled airport transportation from his guests. No carrier currently provides such service to the Dupont Plaza. Mr. Holmes states that his establishment would use applicant's proposed service if WMATC authority is granted.

Richard T. Cotter, general manager of the Omni Georgetown Hotel, also submitted a letter of support stating that the Omni has received numerous requests for scheduled airport transportation. No carrier provides such service to the Omni, and the Omni is forced to transfer its guests to other hotels to obtain it. Mr. Cotter believes that this practice causes considerable inconvenience. He further believes that a grant of authority from the Commission would be in the best interest of his hotel guests. The Omni Georgetown Hotel would use applicant's service if its application is granted.

Addison E. Johnson, general manager of The Carlyle Suites, states that since the hotel's opening in March 1985 several complaints have been made about inconveniences faced by hotel patrons who seek scheduled airport transportation service. Presently, hotel guests must take a taxi to another location in order to use such service, often

resulting in combined costs exceeding the fare directly to the airport. No carrier provides scheduled airport service to The Carlyle Suites.

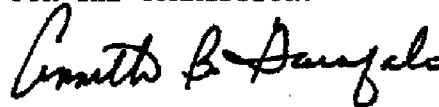
Applicant asserts that the aforementioned letters prove that there is an immediate and urgent need for the proposed service. According to Lion Transportation's principles, the only scheduled airport transportation in the vicinity operates from two Hilton Hotels. Hotel guests from the Dupont Circle area are therefore forced to pay an additional fare in order to use such service. Lion Transportation states that it has received calls from most of the above-mentioned hotels urging early implementation of service. According to Lion Transportation, it seeks authority to provide an efficient, inexpensive shuttle service where none exists, thereby benefiting the public interest.

The standards for temporary authority are set forth in the Compact at Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3). The essential elements are (1) an immediate and urgent need for service, (2) no carrier capable of meeting such need, and (3) fitness of the applicant. */

In view of applicant's allegation of immediate and urgent need, this order will provide notice of Lion Transportation's application and a brief period will be provided for the filing of protests, if any. 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 SO ORDERED that any person desiring to protest this application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14 at the office of the Commission, Suite 316, 1625 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, no later than Monday, November 10, 1986, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest on Ms. Anna Michael and Mr. Nigussie Kassa, 3923 Usher Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22304.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



Annette B. Garofalo
Acting Executive Director

*/ See Order No. 2864, served May 23, 1986; Order No. 2857, served May 12, 1986; and Order No. 1643, served January 24, 1977.