

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2996

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served April 8, 1987

Application of BABEL TRAVEL)
SERVICE, INC., for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity)
to Conduct Charter and Special)
Operations between Points in the)
Metropolitan District)

Case No. AP-87-07

By application filed March 30, 1987, Babel Travel Service, Inc. ("Babel" or "applicant"), seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity to transport passengers, together with baggage in the same vehicle with passengers, in charter and special operations between points in the Metropolitan District. 1/

Applicant currently holds WMATC Certificate No. 103 which authorizes the following transportation:

IRREGULAR ROUTES:

SPECIAL AND CHARTER OPERATIONS

Passengers, together with baggage in the same vehicle with passengers, between points in the Metropolitan District.

RESTRICTED (1) to the performance of such operations in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity for 15 passengers or less (including the driver); and (2) against transportation between points located solely in the Commonwealth of Virginia and (3) against transportation described in Commission Regulation No. 70.

If this application is granted, Babel's operating authority would be unrestricted as to vehicle size.

1/ To the extent that this application could be interpreted to include transportation between points located solely within the Commonwealth of Virginia, the application is dismissed for want of jurisdiction pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 1(b) of the Compact.

Babel offers lectured sightseeing tours in a variety of languages. Applicant currently uses six limousines and five vans in its operations. If this application is granted, Babel plans to operate one deluxe 48-passenger coach equipped with lavatory, refrigerator, sink, folding tables, video and stereo systems, and microwave oven.

Babel proposes transfer rates for Washington National Airport of \$10 and \$8 per person depending on group size and \$13 and \$12 for Washington Dulles International Airport. These rates appear to be available only to travel agents. Babel's proposed sightseeing tours include a City and Arlington National Cemetery Tour, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Tour, and a Night Tour. The proposed fare is \$20 per person for any of the above-mentioned tours with discounted fares for travel agents. Proposed charter rates are \$38 an hour with a four-hour minimum, plus one-hour travel time to and from the garage.

Applicant submitted a balance sheet dated December 31, 1986, which shows current assets of \$117,811.11 and fixed assets after depreciation of \$22,161.65. Current liabilities of \$23,625.96 and equity of \$116,346.80 are listed. Applicant will be directed to submit a statement of projected revenue and expenses from the proposed operations.

Pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, this application will be scheduled for public hearing to determine if the applicant is fit, willing, and able properly to perform the proposed service and to abide by pertinent regulatory requirements and to determine if the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service. Applicant will be assessed an amount preliminarily estimated to cover the cost of the hearing.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That a public hearing in Case No. AP-87-07 is hereby scheduled to commence on Thursday, May 14, 1987, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, 1625 I Street, N.W., Room 314, Washington, D.C. 20006.

2. That the applicant shall publish once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District notice of this application and the hearing thereon, in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Friday, April 17, 1987, and present at the hearing an affidavit of said publication.

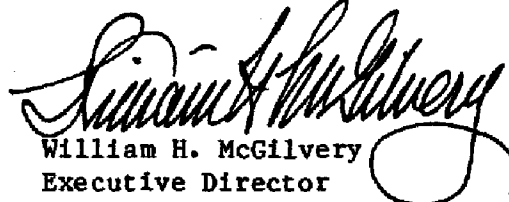
3. That applicant shall post in each of its vehicles, continuously and conspicuously through the date of public hearing, notice of this application and the hearing hereon, in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Friday, April 17, 1987, and present at the hearing an affidavit of said posting.

4. That applicant file with the Commission a statement of projected revenue and expenses from the proposed operations no later than Monday, May 4, 1987.

5. That any person desiring to protest this application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall so notify the Commission in writing no later than Monday, May 4, 1987, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest or notice on counsel for applicant, Robert Walker, Esquire, 1275 K Street, N.W., Suite 875, Washington, D.C. 20005.

6. That applicant is hereby assessed \$800 pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact and is directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Commission, 1625 I Street, N.W., Suite 316, Washington, D.C. 20006, no later than Monday, May 4, 1987.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


William H. McGilvery
Executive Director