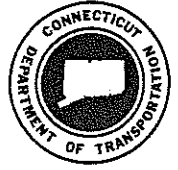


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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 0806-R-113-T

RE: PETITION OF TRANSPORTATION GENERAL, INC D.B.A. METRO TAXI  
TO INCREASE THE METERED RATES OF FARE FOR THE TOWNS OF  
MILFORD AND ORANGE.

Final Decision

November 3, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on June 23, 2008 with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "Department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Transportation General, Inc. d.b.a. Metro Taxi (hereinafter "petitioner"), seeks authorization to amend the taxicab metered rates of fare for the towns of Milford and Orange as follows:

CURRENT METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:                   \$ 2.00 first 1/8 mile  
TRAVEL:                         .25 each additional 1/8 mile  
WAITING TIME:                 .25 every 36 seconds

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:                   \$ 2.25 first 1/9 mile  
TRAVEL:                         .25 each additional 1/9 mile  
WAITING TIME:                 .25 every 29 seconds

B. HEARING HELD

Pursuant to Sections 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and Sections 4-177 through 4-182 of the Connecticut General Statutes, inclusive, this petition was assigned for a public hearing which was held at the administrative offices of the Department in Newington, Connecticut on September 24, 2008.

Notice of the petition and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the petitioner, and to such other parties as deemed necessary by the Department as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication in the New Haven Register, a newspaper having a circulation in the area of concern.

C. APPEARANCES

Mr. William Scalzi appeared on behalf the petitioner. The petitioner's mailing address is P.O. Box 26094, West Haven, Connecticut 06516.

Mr. Richard Spear appeared in opposition to the rate increase on behalf of Coastal Transportation and Lodging Corporation. Coastal Transportation and Lodging Corporation was granted intervenor status. Coastal Transportation's mailing address is 135 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525.

Sheldon Lubin, appeared on behalf of the Regulatory and Compliance Unit of the Department.

#### D. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Administrative notice was taken of Docket Number 0402-R-02-T, the petition of Metro Taxi to increase the taxicab metered rates in the New Haven area and the territory of Metro Taxi which is Guilford, East Haven, New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, Woodbridge, Branford, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford, Bridgeport, Meriden, Stratford and Trumbull, Milford and Orange.

Administrative notice was also taken of the number of expedited application hearings Coastal Transportation has filed. Department records reflect only one expedited application filed in Docket Number 0710-EXP-56-T.

#### II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner currently services the Towns of Guilford, East Haven, New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, Woodbridge, Branford, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford, Bridgeport, Meriden, Stratford and Trumbull, Milford and Orange.

2. The current taxicab rates for Milford and Orange were established in 2000. The petitioner is requesting an equalization of the rates in Milford and Orange with the rates it charges in the New Haven area

3. The petitioner is requesting a 12% metered rate increase. The proposed rates will result in an increase of 12% in both the two and five mile taxicab trip.

4. A two-mile trip at the current taxicab rate costs \$5.75. A two-mile trip at the proposed rate costs \$6.50.

5. The rate increase will eliminate customer confusion as to why different rates are being charged.

6. Since 2000, the consumer price index has risen by 27%. The cost of repairs, fuel, insurance and labor has also risen.

7. The payroll for Metro Taxi has risen from 1.1 million in 2000 to 1.66 million in 2008.

8. Heritage Taxi which operates in Orange supports the rate increase while Coastal Transportation which operates in Milford and Orange does not.

9. Since the taxicab drivers are making less money on the meter servicing Milford and Orange, the drivers are not as willing to perform those trips. The petitioner had to reduce the lease fee for drivers servicing Milford and Orange to get them to service the area.

10. The cost of fuel in 2001 was approximately \$1.47 per gallon and in September 2008 it was \$3.78 per gallon.

11. The 2004 rate increase in the New Haven area did not have a negative effect on ridership.

### III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

The Department has jurisdiction over each person, association, limited liability company or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-93 as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to prescribe adequate service and reasonable rates and charges with respect to fares, service, operations and equipment, as it deems necessary.

The petitioners request an increase in the taxicab rates to keep up with the rising costs of doing business and to equalize the rates in the towns of East Haven, New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, Woodbridge, Branford, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford, Bridgeport, Meriden, Stratford and Trumbull with the taxicab rates charged in Milford and Orange. The taxicab rate in Milford and Orange has been in effect since the last rate increase in 2000. As the costs have risen for maintenance, fuel, insurance and repairs, the rates charged by the taxicab operators in Milford and Orange have remained the same since 2000, thereby causing a hardship to the companies trying to maintain a business that realizes a profit, while servicing the public in a safe and efficient manner with increased costs.

The petitioners have proposed an increase in the rates of taxicab fare for Milford and Orange which translates to a 12% increase over the past eight years. Costs have increased over the past eight years for insurance and fuel, among other things. The cost of inflation for example has risen twenty-seven percent over this same period.

One of the other taxicab companies operating in the petitioner's service area, Heritage Taxi, also supports the metered rate increase. However, Coastal Transportation & Lodging Corporation d.b.a. New Haven-Milford Taxicab Company is not in support of the rate increase. Mr. Spears argued that his clientele cannot support the increase and that an increase would result in a loss of passengers. This argument has no support as Mr. Spear provided no proof of his assertions. The taxicab rates have not changed in eight years while the cost of everything else has risen. When the taxicab rates of fare increased in the New Haven area in 2004, it did not have a negative effect on the ridership.

Another issue is that the petitioner already services a large area around Milford and Orange with the higher taxicab rate. The petitioner seeks to equalize the rates in this hearing. Having two different rates may cause confusion in that the public which will be charged two different taxicab rates by the same company. Having one unified rate will be more understandable to the public.

Finally, there was evidence presented that Metro Taxi is losing \$165 per week for each car that operates in Milford and Orange. Metro Taxi's lease fee for the Milford and Orange area has to be discounted to attract drivers to work in the area since they can make more money working in New Haven due to the higher meter fare.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended, the petition is hereby approved.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of METERED RATES OF FARE shall be implemented for the towns of Orange and Milford and subject to the conditions listed below, and shall become effective on Sunday, November 16, 2008 at 12:01 a.m.:

#### PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:	\$ 2.25 first 1/9 mile
TRAVEL:	.25 each additional 1/9 mile
WAITING TIME:	.25 every 29 seconds

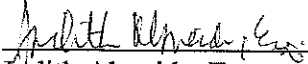
The metered rates of fare in effect for the towns of Orange and Milford existing on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the rates authorized herein.

Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the petitioner through publication of a legal notice in the New Haven Register, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation.

The metered rates of fare approved herein shall apply to all taxicab operators servicing any of the above-included towns.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2008.

#### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

  
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Judith Almeida, Esq.  
Staff Attorney III  
Administrative Law Unit  
Bureau of Finance and Administration