



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

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DOCKET NO. 1104-R-34-T

RE: PETITION OF GREENWICH TAXI, INC. TO INCREASE ITS TAXICAB
METER RATES AND INCREASE THE SHARED RIDE RATE IN
GREENWICH AND THE PETITION OF WESTPORT STAR TAXI TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE FUEL SURCHARGE PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE
ITS TAXI METER RATES IN WESTON, WESTPORT AND WILTON.

Final Decision

August 4, 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on April 13, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Greenwich Taxi, Inc. (hereinafter "Greenwich"), seeks authorization to increase the taxicab meter rate and to increase the shared ride rate in Greenwich.

CURRENT METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.00 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .25 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .25 every 29 seconds

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .30 every 29 seconds

CURRENT SHARED RIDE RATEZONE

1. \$ 4.50
2. \$ 6.50
3. \$ 9.00
4. \$11.00
5. \$13.75
6. \$16.25

PROPOSED SHARED RIDE RATEZONE

1. \$ 5.25
2. \$ 7.25
3. \$ 9.75
4. \$12.50
5. \$15.25
6. \$17.75

By petition filed on May 19, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Westport Star Taxi (hereinafter "Westport"), seeks authorization to increase the taxicab meter rate and to participate in the fuel surcharge program in the towns of Westport, Weston and Wilton.

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 June 30, 2011.

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 on the department's website.

C. APPEARANCES

Mr. Gerald Clancy appeared as a petitioner on behalf of Westport Star Taxi-Certificate Number 284. Mr. Clancy's mailing address is P.O. Box 3231, Westport, Connecticut 06880.

Mr. Anthony Boskello appeared as a petitioner on behalf of Greenwich Taxi, Inc. Mr. Boskello's mailing address is 1 Greenwich Plaza, Greenwich, CT 06830.

Mr. Vito Bochicchio appeared as an intervenor on behalf of Eveready Cab Company of Greenwich-Certificate Number 1134, Eveready Cab Company of Darien-Certificate Number 1124, Stamford Yellow Cab-Certificate Number 1065, Hoyt Taxi Service, Inc.-Certificate Number 1094 and Canaan Parish Taxi, Inc.-Certificate Number 197. The mailing address for these companies is P.O. Box 15, Darien, Connecticut 06820.

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

D. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Administrative notice was taken of the testimony in rate hearings in Docket Number 1105-R-51-T and 1105-R-42-T.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioners seek to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in the towns of Greenwich, Weston, Westport and Wilton.
2. The last metered rate increase in this area was five years ago in 2007. The last increase in shared ride rates was 2005.
3. Since the last meter rate increase there has been an increase in meter related costs, insurance costs, vehicle parts, cost to replace vehicles, gasoline and car maintenance.

4. The petitioners produced numerous invoices showing the increased costs they have had to absorb since the last rate increase. One example of higher costs is the change in price to seal a meter. In 2008 it cost \$270 but in 2011 it cost \$540 to seal a meter. Another example of price increases is tires which cost \$70 in 2007 are now \$97 in 2011.

5. Since late 2010 gasoline has risen 40% to 45% or from \$2.80 to \$4.00.

6. The cost to paint a car in 2007 was \$350 whereas in 2011 the cost is 2011.

7. Fairfield County is the most expensive county in Connecticut to operate a business.

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 put forth a lot of evidence concerning the types of costs that have increased since the last rate hearings in the metered rate in 2007 and the shared ride rate in 2005. There was much evidence presented to show that there have been substantial increases in all areas that have affected the taxicab industry. Prices on insurance, gas, cars, parts, taxes and other expenses have all increased to the point that it would be reasonable to allow a meter rate and shared ride rate increase. Fairfield County it is widely acknowledged is the most expensive county in the State. It is not reasonable to expect operators to absorb all of these additional costs themselves.

As far as the fuel surcharge rate goes the cost of gas is being considered as an element in the increased meter rate so there will be no fuel surcharge allowed.

Based on the evidence presented, the petitioners have shown that the proposed meter and shared ride rate is justified.

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 filed by Greenwich Taxi, Inc. and Westport Star Taxi is hereby granted.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the towns of Greenwich, Westport, Wilton and Weston subject to the conditions below, shall become effective on Sunday, August 21, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP: \$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL: .30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME: .30 every 29 seconds

The request for a fuel surcharge has been incorporated into the new metered and shared ride rate so no fuel surcharge will be allowed.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of shared ride rates shall be implemented for the town of Greenwich subject to the conditions below and shall become effective on Sunday, August 21, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

NEW SHARED RIDE RATEZONE

1. \$ 5.25
2. \$ 7.25
3. \$ 9.75
4. \$12.50
5. \$15.25
6. \$17.75


The metered and shared ride rates in effect for the towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the new rates authorized herein.

Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the petitioners through publication of a legal notice in the Hour and Greenwich Times, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The petitioners operating in the above towns shall be responsible for the expense to place the legal notice.

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

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 4th day of August 2011.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Judith Almeida, Esq.
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Bureau of Finance and Administration