



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:

DOCKET NO. 2204-R-37-T

RE PETITION OF SUBURBAN TRANSPORTATION, INC DBA VALLEY CAB
SUBURBAN TRANSPORTATION, INC DBA TUNXIS CAB
TORRINGTON VALLEY CAB, LLC

TO INCREASE THE TAXICAB METER RATES OF FARE IN ITS AUTHORIZED TERRITORY

DECISION

JUNE 8, 2022

I INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONERS PROPOSAL

By request letters dated April 11, 2022, filed with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the petitioners have requested authorization to increase the taxicab meter rates of fare as follows:

APPLICANT: SUBURBAN TRANSPORTATION, INC. DBA TUNXIS CAB / Certificate # 1093

AUTHORIZED TERRITORY REQUESTED: Avon, Bristol, and Canton

Pursuant to the provisions of 13b-96 and 4-177 through 182, of the Connecticut General Statutes, Suburban Transportation, Inc dba Tunxis Cab seeks authorization to increase the under fifteen-mile taxicab meter rate within and to and from the following towns in Connecticut:

Avon, and Canton:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	01/01/2012	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

Bristol:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	02/01/2016	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

APPLICANT: SUBURBAN TRANSPORTATION, INC. DBA VALLEY CAB / Certificate # 1144

AUTHORIZED TERRITORY REQUESTED:

Avon, Canton, Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Litchfield, Southington, Wolcott, Barkhamsted, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Plymouth, Thomaston, Torrington, Winchester, Bethlehem, Cornwall, Goshen, Morris, New Milford, Warren, Washington, Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Middlebury, Woodbury, and Roxbury.

Pursuant to the provisions of 13b-96 and 4-177 through 182, of the Connecticut General Statutes, Suburban Transportation, Inc dba Valley Cab seeks authorization to increase the under fifteen-mile taxicab meter rate within and to and from the following towns in Connecticut:

Avon, and Canton.:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	01/01/2012	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Litchfield:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	02/01/2016	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

Southington, Wolcott, Barkhamsted, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Plymouth, Thomaston, Torrington, Winchester, Bethlehem, Cornwall, Goshen, Morris, New Milford, Warren, Washington, Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Middlebury, and Woodbury:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/8 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/8 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	01/01/2012	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

Roxbury:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/8 th mile	03/01/2016	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile	06/20/2022

Travel: Each additional 1/8 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30		Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	
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With no statewide fuel surcharge.

APPLICANT: TORRINGTON VALLEY CAB, LLC / Certificate # 1161

AUTHORIZED TERRITORY REQUESTED: Torrington

Pursuant to the provisions of 13b-96 and 4-177 through 182, of the Connecticut General Statutes. Torrington Valley Cab, LLC seeks authorization to increase the under fifteen-mile taxicab meter rate within and to and from the town of Torrington in Connecticut as follows:

Torrington:

Current Meter Rates:	Effective Date on:	Proposed Meter Rates:	Proposed effective Date on:
Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.00 per 1 st 1/8 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/8 th mile \$.30 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.30	01/01/2012	Meter Drop: Initial charge: \$3.75 per 1 st 1/9 th mile Travel: Each additional 1/9 th mile \$.40 Waiting Time: Each additional 30 second \$.40	06/20/2022

With no statewide fuel surcharge.

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 by telephone conference on June 1, 2022.

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

Shazia Dode, owner, and Dennis King, manager, appeared pro se on behalf of Suburban Transportation, Inc dba Valley Cab, Suburban Transportation, Inc dba Tunxis Cab and Torrington Valley Cab, LLC. The mailing address for these three companies is 320 East Main Street, Plainville, Connecticut 06062.

Elhassan Aitelqadi, Accounts Examiner, appeared as witness on behalf of the Department of Transportation Regulatory & Compliance Unit.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner seeks to increase the meter rate for the three companies they operate.
2. The last metered rate increase in this territory was in either 2012 or 2016.

3. Part of the applicant's taxicab territory recently received a rate increase.
4. The taxicab rates must be unified to avoid possible confusion for the public as to why the same trip would cost different amounts depending on the starting or ending point.
5. Taxicab operators must have the same taxicab rate in their entire service area, or they will have difficulty administering different taxicab rates.
6. Since the last meter rate increase was in either 2012 or 2016, the costs associated with operating the taxicab business have risen dramatically such as for gasoline and vehicle parts.
7. The total overall final rate increase considering inflation is either 9 % or 14 %.
8. These petitions were not opposed.

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 petitioner has several towns in its taxicab service area which recently received a rate increase. Without unification of the rates, there may be public confusion since the same trip will cost different amounts depending on where you start and end the trip. Unifying the rates will help the public to avoid confusion since the same trip will cost the same amount regardless of the starting or ending point.

The taxicab rates have been in effect in this service area since either 2012 or 2016. The petitioner put forth evidence concerning the rising costs of doing business. The petitioner needs to get this rate increase to keep its fleet safe for the riding public. All the basic needs of operating a taxicab company have increased dramatically such as vehicle parts and gasoline. While it is unfortunate that the public will have to bear some of the expense of the taxicab rate increase, the alternative of operators going out of business or cutting corners to operate unsafely is not acceptable. Safety of the riding public is our top concern and requires that the taxicab companies meet their necessary expenses.

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 the petitioner is hereby granted.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for Avon, Canton, Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Litchfield, Southington, Wolcott, Barkhamsted, Hartland, Harwinton, New Hartford, Plymouth, Thomaston, Torrington, Winchester, Bethlehem, Cornwall, Goshen, Morris, New Milford, Warren, Washington, Canaan, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon, Middlebury, Woodbury and Roxbury as follows and subject to the conditions below, shall become effective on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 12:01 a.m.

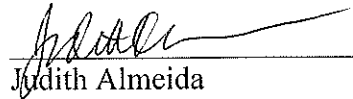
NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:	\$ 3.75 first 1/9 mile
TRAVEL:	.40 each additional 1/9 mile
WAITING TIME:	.40 every 30 seconds

There is no fuel surcharge. The metered rates in effect for the towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the new taxicab 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 local newspapers which cover the area of concern, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The petitioners shall be responsible for the expense to place the legal notice. 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 8th day of June 2022.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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