



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

DOCKET NO. 2205-R-60-T

**RE PETITION OF ESSEX LIMOUSINE SERVICE, INC DBA ESSEX TAXI TO INCREASE ITS
TAXICAB METER RATES OF FARE FOR ESSEX, OLD SAYBROOK, DEEP RIVER, WESTBROOK
AND CHESTER**

DECEMBER 6, 2022

I INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONERS PROPOSAL

By request letter dated May 26, 2022, filed with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter" department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the petitioner has requested authorization to increase its taxicab meter rates of fare as follows:

APPLICANT: Essex Limousine Service dba Essex Taxi/ Certificate # 1121

Pursuit to the provisions of 13b-96 and 4-177 through 182, of the Connecticut General Statutes, Essex Limousine Service dba Essex Taxi seeks authorization to increase the under fifteen-mile taxicab meter rate within and to and from the towns of Essex, Old Saybrook, Deep River, Westbrook and Chester in Connecticut as follows:

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	12/19/2022

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 November 30, 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

Richard Saks appeared pro se on behalf of Essex Limousine Service dba Essex Taxi. The mailing address for this company is 135 Dennison Road, Essex, Connecticut 06426.

Felipe Briseno, supervisor of the Regulatory & Compliance Unit, presented testimony in support of the petition.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner seeks to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in the towns of Essex, Old Saybrook, Deep River, Westbrook, and Chester.

2. The last metered rate increase in this territory was in 2012.
3. Part of the applicant's taxicab territory, Guilford, and Madison, had a rate increase recently.
4. The taxicab rates must be unified to avoid possible confusion for the public as to why the same trip will cost different amounts depending on the starting or ending point.
5. Administering different taxicab rates in a service area presents difficulty to the petitioner.
6. Since the last meter rate increase in 2012, many costs associated with operating the taxicab business have risen dramatically such as for gas and payroll expenses.
7. The overall final taxicab rate increase considering inflation is 9.13%.
8. Without the rate increase the petitioner's business would be in jeopardy.

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 two towns in its taxicab service area Guilford and Madison, which recently received a rate increase. Unifying the taxicab 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 2012. The petitioner should get this rate increase to keep its fleet safe for the public. All the expenses of operating a taxicab company have increased dramatically including payroll and gas. While it is unfortunate that the public will have to bear some of the expense of the taxicab rate increase, the alternative is that this operator may go out of business. Since this operator is the only one in this service area its closure would have a serious negative impact on the public.

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 the towns of **Essex, Old Saybrook, Deep River, Westbrook and Chester** subject to the conditions below, shall become effective on Monday, December 19, 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 petitioner 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 petitioner 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 6th day of December 2022.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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