



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 0808-R-149-T

RE: PETITION OF TRANSPORTATION GENERAL, INC D.B.A. METRO TAXI
TO ELIMINATE THE TAXICAB SHARED RIDE RATE IN NEW HAVEN.

Final Decision

December 17, 2008

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on August 27, 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 eliminate the taxicab shared ride rate in New Haven.

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 December 4, 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. Michael Wolkovitz appeared on behalf of Checker Cab Company to support the elimination of the shared ride rate. Checker Cab Company's mailing address is P.O. Box 120614, East Haven, Connecticut 06512.

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

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The taxicab shared ride rate has been in effect in New Haven since 1996. The shared ride rate was originally requested by the petitioner.
2. The shared ride rate has not been utilized much due to the reluctance of strangers to share a taxicab.
3. When a shared ride rate is utilized, the taxicab driver does not collect part of the fare.

4. The New Haven Train Station does not have a starter to direct passengers to utilize the shared ride.
5. The shared ride rate only covers a limited area in downtown New Haven.
6. Sixteen of the seventeen taxicab companies servicing New Haven agree that the shared ride rate should be eliminated.

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 requests to eliminate the shared ride rate that is in effect at the New Haven Rail Station. The shared ride rate has been in effect since 1996. While it was a good idea in theory, experience has shown that the shared ride rate was never really used. People do not like riding in taxicabs with strangers and since there is no starter in New Haven, no one is available to gather groups of people together for the rides. Sixteen of the seventeen taxicab companies operating in New Haven support the elimination of the shared ride rate.

IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

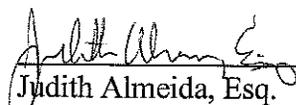
Based upon the above and pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended, the petition is hereby approved and the shared ride rate in New Haven is hereby eliminated.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the shared ride rate shall be eliminated on Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 12:01 a.m.

Public notice of the intent to eliminate the shared ride rate 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.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 17th day of December 2008.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


Judith Almeida, Esq.

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Administrative Law Unit
Bureau of Finance and Administration