



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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

Phone:
(860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1108-R-84-T

RE: PETITION OF TAXICAB OPERATORS TO INCREASE THE TAXICAB METER RATES OF FARE IN ANSONIA, ASHFORD, AVON, BEACON FALLS, BERLIN, BLOOMFIELD, BRANFORD, BRIDGEPORT, CANTON, COLCHESTER, CROMWELL, DERBY, DURHAM, EAST GRANBY, EAST HADDAM, EAST HAMPTON, EAST HARTFORD, EAST HAVEN, EAST WINDSOR, EASTFORD, ELLINGTON, ENFIELD, FARMINGTON, GLASTONBURY, GRANBY, GUILFORD, HADDAM, HAMDEN, HARTFORD, HEBRON, KILLINGLY, LEBANON, MANCHESTER, MARBOROUGH, MERIDEN, MIDDLEFIELD, MIDDLETOWN, MILFORD, MONROE, NEW BRITAIN, NEW HAVEN, NEWINGTON, NORTH BRANFORD, NORTH HAVEN, ORANGE, OXFORD, POMFRET, PORTLAND, PUTNAM, ROCKY HILL, SALEM, SEYMOUR, SHELTON, SIMSBURY, SOMERS, SOUTH WINDSOR, STRATFORD, SUFFIELD, THOMPSON, TOLLAND, TRUMBULL, VERNON, WALLINGFORD, WEST HARTFORD, WEST HAVEN, WETHERSFIELD, WINDSOR, WINDSOR LOCKS, WOODBRIDGE AND WOODSTOCK.

Final Decision

January 5, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petitions filed around August 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, several taxicab operators sought to increase the taxicab meter rate in the following towns:

ANSONIA, ASHFORD, AVON, BEACON FALLS, BERLIN, BLOOMFIELD, BRANFORD, BRIDGEPORT, CANTON, COLCHESTER, CROMWELL, DERBY, DURHAM, EAST GRANBY, EAST HADDAM, EAST HAMPTON, EAST HARTFORD, EAST HAVEN, EAST WINDSOR, EASTFORD, ELLINGTON, ENFIELD, FARMINGTON, GLASTONBURY, GRANBY, GUILFORD, HADDAM, HAMDEN, HARTFORD, HEBRON, KILLINGLY, LEBANON, MANCHESTER, MARBOROUGH, MERIDEN, MIDDLEFIELD, MIDDLETOWN, MILFORD, MONROE, NEW BRITAIN, NEW HAVEN, NEWINGTON, NORTH BRANFORD, NORTH HAVEN, ORANGE, OXFORD, POMFRET, PORTLAND, PUTNAM, ROCKY HILL, SALEM, SEYMOUR, SHELTON, SIMSBURY, SOMERS, SOUTH WINDSOR, STRATFORD, SUFFIELD, THOMPSON, TOLLAND, TRUMBULL, VERNON, WALLINGFORD, WEST HARTFORD, WEST HAVEN, WETHERSFIELD, WINDSOR, WINDSOR LOCKS, WOODBRIDGE AND WOODSTOCK.

The current metered rates in these towns vary from town to town. The petitioners proposed two meter rate increases for these towns as follows:

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE # 1:

METER DROP:	\$ 3.25 first 1/9 mile
TRAVEL:	.30 each additional 1/9 mile
WAITING TIME:	.30 every 29 seconds

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE # 2:

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

There is also a proposal to have no fuel surcharge until the price of gas is at least \$5.00 a gallon and then \$.01 increments for travel only.

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 November 17, 2011.

Notice of the petition and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the petitioners, 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

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

The following companies filed petitions in this matter and received intervenor status:

1. A.A. Cab, LLC. - Certificate 1188
2. Airports Carrier Cab, LLC - Certificate 1187
3. A Lexus Luxury Service Corp. - Certificate 24
4. Edward McGhie d.b.a. United Cab - Certificate 1078
5. Executive 2000 Transportation, LLC - Certificate 1097
6. Fairfield County Transportation, LLC - Certificate 1154
7. Grigory Bratslavski d.b.a. Grigory's Taxi Company - Certificate 1084
8. Kahn, GUL R. d.b.a. Kahn Taxi - Certificate 1168
9. Menshch, Leonid d.b.a. Leo's Taxi Cab Co. - Certificate 1138
10. Metro Taxi Co., Inc. d.b.a. Yellow Cab - Certificate 1100
11. Rana Cab Company, Inc. - Certificate 1191
12. William Saunders d.b.a. Bill's Taxi - Certificate 1080
13. Star Taxi, Inc. d.b.a. Yellow Cab - Certificate 1102
14. Transportation General d.b.a. Metro Taxi - Certificate 86
15. Valley Livery & Limo, LLC - Certificate 1112
16. Yellow Cab Company d.b.a. Yellow Cab - Certificate 1

D. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Administrative notice was taken of the final decisions in the following hearings: 1108-R-85-T, 1105-R-51-T, 1104-R-34-T and 1105-R-42-T. The testimony from an earlier rate increase hearing in Docket Number 1119-R-91-T is incorporated into this record.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Several taxicab operators seek to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in various Connecticut towns as listed in the hearing notice issued on October 14, 2011.

2. The towns listed in the rate increase are completely diverse and come from every county in the state.

3. The petitions have proposed two different rates.

4. The last rate increases in these areas was several years ago. The last rate increase in the New Haven area was seven years ago. The last rate increase in the Hartford area was five years ago. The Naugatuck Valley last had a rate increase 12 years ago. The Bridgeport area has not had a rate increase in 7 years.

5. Many goods and services have increased in price since the last rate increases in these areas including car parts, mechanic services, insurance and gasoline.

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.

Based on the evidence presented, there appears to be no consensus on the part of the operators whether to raise the taxicab rates or not and less of a consensus as to what the rate should be. Several operators testified that they did not believe that their communities would be able to support a rate increase while others felt that was enough time that had passed since the last increase that one should now be granted.

The department finds that the higher rate proposed by the petitioners is too high given the severe economic constraints we find ourselves in and the opposition by several taxicab operators. However, sufficient evidence was received that there have been substantial increases in the expenses necessary to operate a taxicab and that some of these areas have not had a rate increase in many years. Therefore, the department proposes an intermediate rate which will be more customer friendly and still allow the drivers to recoup some additional money to cover their expenses.

Several towns have received a higher rate of fare to take into account the miles travelled by Valley Livery in the Naugatuck Valley which are often without a customer to the pick up or drop off point.

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 various operators is hereby granted in part.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the following towns shall become effective on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 12:01 a.m.

ASHFORD, AVON, BERLIN, BLOOMFIELD, BRANFORD, BRIDGEPORT, CANTON, COLCHESTER, CROMWELL, DURHAM, EAST GRANBY, EAST HADDAM, EAST HARTFORD, EAST HAVEN, EAST WINDSOR, EASTFORD, ELLINGTON, ENFIELD, FARMINGTON, GLASTONBURY, GRANBY, GUILFORD, HAMDEN, HARTFORD, KILLINGLY, MANCHESTER, MERIDEN, MILFORD, NEW BRITAIN, NEW HAVEN, NEWINGTON, NORTH BRANFORD, NORTH HAVEN, ORANGE, POMFRET, PUTNAM, ROCKY HILL, SIMSBURY, SOMERS, SOUTH WINDSOR, STRATFORD, SUFFIELD, THOMPSON, TOLLAND, TRUMBULL, VERNON, WALLINGFORD, WEST HARTFORD, WEST HAVEN, WETHERSFIELD, WINDSOR, WINDSOR LOCKS AND WOODBRIDGE.

The new metered rate in these towns is:

METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE

METER DROP:	\$3.00 first 1/9 mile
TRAVEL:	\$.30 each additional 1/9 mile
WAITING TIME:	\$.30 every 30 seconds

The fuel surcharge will only be on the travel rate once the price of gasoline exceeds \$4.50 a gallon for regular gasoline beginning with a penny extra per 1/9 of a mile. The fuel surcharge will only be reviewed on April 1st and October 1st.

For the towns in the Naugatuck Valley which include **Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Monroe, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton** the new metered rate is as follows:

METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE

METER DROP:	\$ 3.00 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL:	.30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME:	.30 every 30 seconds

The fuel surcharge will only be on the travel rate once the price of gasoline exceeds \$5.00 a gallon for regular gasoline beginning with a penny extra per 1/10th of a mile. The Fuel surcharge will only be reviewed on April 1st and October 1st.

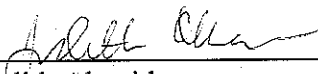
The metered rates in effect for the above listed towns on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the new rates authorized herein.

Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the operators through publication of a legal notice in their local newspaper, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The operators operating in all of the above towns shall be responsible for the expense of placing the legal notice.

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

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 5th day of January 2012.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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