



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone:

DOCKET NO. 2203-R-30-T SHORELINE TAXI LLC

**RE PETITION OF SHORELINE TAXI, LLC TO INCREASE ITS TAXICAB METER
RATES OF FARE IN MADISON AND CLINTON**

DECISION

MAY 17, 2022

I INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONERS PROPOSAL

By request letter dated March 21, 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: Shoreline Taxi LLC / Certificate # 225

Pursuit to the provisions of 13b-96 and 4-177 through 182, of the Connecticut General Statutes, Shoreline Taxi LLC seeks authorization to increase the under fifteen-mile taxicab meter rate within and to and from the towns of Madison and Clinton in Connecticut as follows:

Madison, and Clinton:

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	05/30/2022

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 May 11, 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

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

Richard Ficorilli appeared pro se on behalf of Shoreline Taxi LLC. The mailing address for this company is 2351 Boston Post Road, Guilford, Connecticut 06437.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner seeks to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in the towns of Madison and Clinton.
2. The last metered rate increase in this territory was in 2016.

3. 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.

4. Taxicab operators must have the same taxicab rate in their entire service area or they will have difficulty administering the different taxicab rates.

5. Since the last meter rate increase in 2016, the costs associated with operating the taxicab business have risen dramatically.

6. Some examples of rising costs are the increase in employee salaries and insurance.

7. The overall final rate increase considering inflation is 14 %.

8. The taxicab rate of fare for the petitioner's territory of Guilford was just increased to the proposed amount in a recent decision in 2201-R-8-T.

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 three towns in its taxicab service area one of which, Guilford, recently received a rate increase. The petitioner put forth convincing evidence concerning the confusion that would occur if the taxicab rate in its service area were not unified. 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 2016. 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 labor and insurance. A taxicab company simply cannot keep absorbing these rising costs without passing some of them on to the public. 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 the towns of **Madison and Clinton** subject to the conditions below, shall become effective on Monday, May 30, 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 17th day of May 2022.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Judith Almeida
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Administrative Law Unit
Bureau of Finance and Administration