

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) APPLICATION NO. BR-377
Prescription of Reasonable)
Rates and Charges for Motor)
Carriers Passengers and) GRANTED ON AN EMERGENCY
Property for Hire subject to) BASIS
the Provisions of Neb. Rev.)
Stat. (Reissue 2003), Chapter)
75, Articles 1 and 3.) ENTERED: MARCH 1, 2011

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

On February 15, 2011, Transport Plus, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its transportation rates as follows:

<u>Transportation Rates</u>	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
<u>In Lincoln</u>		
Per one way trip	\$22.00	\$25.00
<u>Within Lancaster County</u>		
Per mile plus trip		
Charge	\$ 2.40	\$2.40
<u>Outside Lancaster County</u>		
Per Hour	\$30.00	\$30.00
Per Mile	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.40
<u>Escort/Assistance</u>		
Per Hour	\$30.00	\$30.00

Fuel Surcharge:

Trips within corporate city limits of Lincoln

<u>Price/gallon</u>		
Under \$2.00	Zero	Zero
\$2.00-\$2.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
\$2.50-\$3.00	\$1.75	\$1.75
\$3.00-\$3.50	\$2.00	\$2.00
Over \$3.50	\$2.50	\$2.50

Trips beyond corporate city limits of Lincoln

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Price/gallon

Price/gallon

Under \$2.00	Zero	Zero
\$2.00-\$3.00	\$0.10/mile	\$0.10
Over \$3.00	\$0.20/mile	\$0.20

Emergency action on the application is requested.

The Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1439. The certificate authorizes the transportation of: (a) retired and semi-retired persons 60 years old and older requiring specialized personal assistance, children 16 years and younger requiring specialized personal assistance, and visually impaired persons requiring specialized personal assistance between points in Lancaster County over irregular routes; (b) passengers requiring specialized personal assistance and their baggage from points in Lancaster County, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes; (c) members of church and youth groups from points in Lancaster County, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. Supp. 1 Passengers that are ADA eligible between points in Lancaster County and from points originating in Lancaster County to points in Nebraska over irregular routes. RESTRICTIONS: (1) Restricted against taxi service; (2) 24-hour advance scheduling is required for all transportation other than transportation conducted under contract with the Lincoln Star Tran Brokerage Program. Other restrictions apply.

According to information provided by the Applicant, the primary cause behind the request for the increase on the one-way rate within Lincoln city limits is an insurance clause in an upcoming contract with the StarTran Brokerage Service with the City of Lincoln. The current insurance costs for this program have increased \$1,078 over 2010 requirements.

The City of Lincoln is also requiring that the Applicant secure an additional \$3,000,000 umbrella policy. Steve Mason, the insurance adjuster for the Applicant, has sent to the Commission a commitment page that states that this umbrella policy will have a cost of \$9,848. The total cost increase to the Applicant for these insurance policies is \$10,923.00.

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Other increases in costs cited by the Applicant are an increase in its rent and shop area expenses.

The only change in the proposed rates are an increase in the Lincoln transportation rate from \$22.00 to \$25.00, which is an increase of thirteen percent. The rate proposed is based on the amount needed to recoup the additional expenses of the StarTran contract as well as a contractual amount that has been negotiated with the Department of Health and Human Services.

In order to grant an application on an emergency basis, the applicant must show and the Commission must find that an emergency situation exists. The applicant represents to the Commission that the contract with StarTran calling for the increase in insurance costs begins on May 1, 2011. The Applicant needs the rate change to be effective immediately so that it can begin to gather the necessary income to pay for the increased insurance costs it will experience.

The Commission does find that the rates should be approved on an emergency basis due to the fact that the applicant will be at a disadvantage with regards to the new contract with StarTran and that the new expenses could jeopardize the ability of the Applicant to continue to offer services if the application is not granted on an emergency basis. The Commission also finds that the proposed rates for the are reasonable and competitive and should be approved in this order.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted and that the Applicant proposed rate structure be approved effective July 1, 2010.

O R D E R

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Transport Plus, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its transportation rates as follows, effective March 4, 2011:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
I. Transportation Rates:	
A. One-way within Lincoln City limits	\$25.00

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- B. Within Lancaster County (Beyond the corporate limits of Lincoln)
1. Same as in I-A above, plus
 2. Mileage charge \$2.40/mi.
- C. Outside Lancaster County
1. Round trip, plus \$30.00/hr
 2. Mileage charge \$2.40/mi.
- II. Escort/Assistance \$30.00/hr

Fuel Surcharge:

Price/gallon

Under \$2.00	Zero
\$2.00-\$2.50	\$1.50
\$2.50-\$3.00	\$1.75
\$3.00-\$3.50	\$2.00
Over \$3.50	\$2.50

Trips beyond corporate city limits of Lincoln

Price/gallon

Price/gallon

Under \$2.00	Zero
\$2.00-\$3.00	\$0.10/mile
Over \$3.00	\$0.20/mile

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that public notice of this action be published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121, R.R.S. 2009, and the Commission rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of March, 2011.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Red [Signature]
Anne [Signature]
Frank E. Landis

Tim Schram
Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

//s// Frank E. Landis
//s// Tim Schram