

In the Matter of the Prescription of)	APPLICATION NO. BR-271
Reasonable Rates and Charges for Motor)	.
Carriers Passengers and Property for Hire)	GRANTED
subject to the Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.)	
(Reissue 1996), Chapter 75, Articles 1 and)	ENTERED: FEBRUARY 20, 2002
3.)	

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On November 28, 2002, Hope Transportation, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to establish rates for its use when transporting passengers in wheelchairs as follows:

Description (See Note)	Proposed	
	One-Way	Round -Trip
Person in Wheelchair	\$30.00	\$60.00

Note: Transportation rate is per person.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1557. The Certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers in open class service by passenger van between points in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties, including the transportation of clients of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS), services under contract with DHHS, and other similar state and federal agencies.

Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on December 6, 2001, pursuant to the Commission's rules. The application was not protested.

Applicant states that upon receipt of its authority, in October 2001, social workers at nursing homes and hospitals requested wheelchair equipped vehicles be included in the offering. Due to the high cost of the wheelchair lift equipment and the increased time involved in loading a unloading a wheelchair bound passenger, a rate higher than a rate for ambulatory passengers is needed to support the operation. The proposed rate will provide the revenue needed to offset the cost of operating a lift equipped wheelchair vehicle.

The proposed rates are similar to the rates on file for other carriers in the metropolitan Omaha area providing wheelchair lift equipment. The proposed rates will not affect the rates currently on file for ambulatory passengers. The proposed rate will

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allow the establishment of a wheelchair lift equipped vehicle and service as requested by clients.

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.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Hope Transportation, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to establish rates for its use when transporting passengers in wheelchairs as follows:



<u>Description (See Note)</u>	<u>One-Way</u>	<u>Round -Trip</u>
Person in Wheelchair	\$30.00	\$60.00

Note: Transportation rate is per person


MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 20th day of February, 2002.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

//s//Anne C. Boyle
//s//Frank E. Landis


Chair

ATTEST:


Acting Executive Director