

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	APPLICATION NO. BR-307
Prescription of Reasonable Rates)	
and Charges for Motor Carriers)	GRANTED AS MODIFIED ON AN
Passengers and Property for Hire)	EMERGENCY BASIS
subject to the Provisions of)	
Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 1996),)	ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 7, 2005
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.)	

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On September 2, 2005, Transport Plus, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend its transportation rates as follows:

Transportation Rates	Current Rates	Proposed Rate
In Lincoln		
Per one way trip	\$15.00	\$17.50
Per one way		
Wheelchair trip	\$20.00	\$20.00 (no change)
Within Lancaster County		
Per mile plus trip		
Charge	\$ 2.00	\$3.00
Outside Lancaster County		
Per Hour	\$25.00	\$30.00
Per Mile	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00
Escort/Assistance		
Per Hour	\$25.00	\$30.00

Emergency action 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

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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 the Applicant, the proposed rates are requested due to increased operating expenses, especially fuel and insurance. The Applicant's last increase was granted in 2003.

Applicant provided expense information comparing 2004 and 2005. The exhibit provided shows that insurance expenses in general declined \$800 from the first eight months of 2005 compared to the same time period in 2004. However, this reduction was offset by increases in communication costs and, most especially, an \$8,000 year-to-date increase in automobile operating expenses.

The Commission is aware that gasoline prices have risen greatly in the past year, most recently increasing thirty percent in one day during the last week in August of 2005. While the Commission understands the current situation, however, it is also of the opinion that the requested increases in some areas are too extreme. The proposed per mile trip charge would increase fifty percent if approved as submitted. This is an amount that cannot be justified even under the circumstances as presented.

The proposed increases in the Lincoln rates for one way fares of 16.7% and in the Hourly and Attendant rates of twenty percent can be found as reasonable under the circumstances. The Commission finds that the per mile charges should be adjusted from \$2.00 per mile to \$2.40 per mile, resulting in a twenty percent increase.

After discussions of the situation with Commission staff, the Applicant agrees that the rates set for the as above are reasonable and will provide adequate income for its operations. The Applicant was also encouraged to apply for more moderate increases on a more frequent basis in the future.

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 as modified on an emergency basis effective September 12, 2005.

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ORDER

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:

Description	Rate
I. Transportation Rates:	
A. One-way within Lincoln City limits	
1. First person	\$17.50
2. Each additional passenger	No charge
3. Wheelchair rate	\$20.00
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

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 7th day of September, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Lowell Johnson - Chairman

Rod Johnson

Aune C. Boyle

ATTEST:

And S. P. Mohr
Executive Director

//s// Rod Johnson

//s// Frank E. Landis

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