

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. BR-355  
Prescription of 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 3. )

ENTERED: JUNE 29, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

### OPINION AND FINDINGS

On March 22, 2010, 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	\$20.00	\$22.00
<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	\$1.65	\$1.75
\$3.00-\$3.50	\$1.80	\$2.00
Over \$3.50	\$2.10	\$2.50

#### Trips beyond corporate city limits of Lincoln

#### Price/gallon

Price/gallon

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Under \$2.00	Zero	Zero
\$2.00-\$3.00	\$0.10/mile	\$0.10
Over \$3.00	\$0.15/mile	\$0.20

The application was published on March 25, 2010, in the Daily Record. There were no protests received.

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, costs have increased for the Applicant in the first five months of 2010 compared to the first five months of 2009. A major component of the increases have been in fuel expenses, which have risen twelve percent in 2010 over 2009. One of the largest increases was in Workers Compensation insurance. According to invoices supplied to the Commission from Zurich Insurance, the Workers Compensation Insurance premium increased from \$10,490.00 in 2009 to 19,371.00 in 2010, an increase of eighty-five percent.

Other increases in costs for the Applicant included the promotion of a long time employee to the position of General Manager and the retention of a mechanic on staff. The mechanic is bringing some efficiencies for the Applicant as he can address repair issues much faster and keep on top of the fleet for preventive repairs.

The Applicant has also experienced an increase in unemployment taxes from \$1,165.59 per quarter to \$2,209.22 per quarter. Overall, on an average month basis, the Applicant

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states that it has experienced a growth in expenses of twenty-eight percent in 2010.

The major change in the proposed rates are an increase in the in the Lincoln transportation rate from \$20.00 to \$22.00, an increase of ten percent. The Applicant has also proposed adjusting the fuel surcharge of between six and nineteen percent within the city limits of Lincoln, and an increase in the fuel surcharge of thirty-three percent for trips outside of Lincoln when the price of fuel exceeds \$3.00 per gallon.

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.

## 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, effective July 1, 2010:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
I. Transportation Rates:	
A. One-way within Lincoln City limits	\$22.00
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

### Fuel Surcharge:

<u>Price/gallon</u>	
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

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Price/gallon

Under \$2.00

\$2.00-\$3.00

Over \$3.00

Zero

\$0.10/mile

\$0.20/mile

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Bob Johnson*  
*Gene Doyle*  
*Tim Schram*

Chairman

*Gerald L Vap*

ATTEST:

Executive Director

*Neil S. Vap*

//s// Frank E. Landis  
//s// Gerald L. Vap