

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. BR-400  
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 2011), Chapter )  
75, Articles 1 and 3. ) ENTERED: MARCH 27, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPININON AND FINDINGS

On March 23, 2012, Papiro Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend rates for its use in its operations as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Regular Rate	\$20.00 one way	\$25.00 one way
After Hour Rate	\$30.00 one way	\$35.00 one way

(Normal business hours are 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Central Time Monday through Saturday. After hour rate applies to all pick-ups before or after normal business hours.)

Additional Charges: If the primary passenger needs a medical escort, or needs to have additional family members accompany them, including foster parents or children, the charge is \$7.00 per additional passenger.

Interstate Rate \$1.32/loaded mile

Emergency action is requested.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate Number B-1733. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers in open class service over irregular routes between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties and between points in said counties. HHS Designation: Yes. Transportation of Railroad Train Crews: No.

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The Applicant received authority to operate from the Commission under Certificate Number B-1733 on April 21, 2009. The Applicant is amending its rates for use in this certificate.

The Applicant is seeking to raise its rates from \$20.00 per trip one way to \$25.00 per trip one way. The primary justification for this increase is that the company is entering the wheelchair transportation market. The increase is designed to offset some of the additional costs of this type of operation such as the initial expense of the vehicle, less gas mileage due to the greater size of the vehicle and increased insurance costs.

The Applicant informed the Commission that the wheelchair market in the Omaha area has undergone significant change in the last few weeks as well as an anticipated change in the immediate future. Shared Mobility Coach has, at least temporarily, stopped operating in the Omaha area. In addition, the Applicant has information that another company, American Medical Response, is planning to discontinue operations in the next few weeks. These developments will have created a situation where there may be a deficiency in the number of wheelchair vans servicing the area. The Applicant intends to enter this market.

The proposed rate for service is \$25.00. Other companies are receiving up to \$33.00 for wheelchair transportation, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service is able to authorize up to \$38.00 per trip for one-way transportation of this service type.

The Applicant submitted to the Commission several other reasons for the proposed increase. Fuel costs have increased dramatically in the past few months, and there does not appear to be relief in sight in the immediate future. This cost factor will impact the Applicant more as it moves into greater use of the full size wheelchair vans as the mileage per gallon for these vehicles is lower than that for other types of vans. The Applicant is also needing additional income to offset anticipated maintenance costs as their repair costs are expected to increase in

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part due to the wheelchair vans and the special equipment that is involved with that type of vehicle.

The Commission is aware of the increase in the costs of fuel that has occurred in the past few months. These costs are not expected to decrease in any significant amount throughout 2012 and result in an increase in the costs for operations such as that run by the Applicant.

In applications such as these, the Commission must find that an emergency situation exists. Such a situation exists in this application due to the change in the wheelchair market in the Omaha area as detailed above. The loss of Shared Mobility Coach should create a need in the community for wheelchair transportation which needs to be met quickly. The Applicant states that it can and will assist in meeting this need.

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 on an emergency basis effective March 30, 2012.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective March 30, 2012, Papio Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend rates for its use as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates</u>
Regular Rate	\$25.00 one way
After Hour Rate	\$35.00 one way
Additional Passengers:	\$7.00 one way
-More than one person transported from the same origination point to the same destination, excluding medical escorts	
Interstate Mileage Rate	\$1.32/loaded mile

(Normal business hours are 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Central Time Monday through Saturday. After hour rate applies to all pick-ups before or after normal business hours.)

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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. 2011, and the Commissions Rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 27th day of March, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Tim Schram*

Chairman

*Lee Johnson*

*Aune Boyce*

ATTEST:

*Shirley J. H.*

Executive Director

*Quall L. Vay*

//s// Rod Johnson  
//s// Frank Landis