

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	APPLICATION NO. BR-431
Prescription of Reasonable Rates)	
and Charges for Motor Carriers)	
Passengers and Property for Hire)	GRANTED ON AN EMERGENCY
Subject to the Provisions of)	BASIS
Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 2003),)	
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.)	
(Transport Plus))	ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

BY THE COMMISSION:

On August 22, 2013, 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	\$25.00	\$27.00
<u>Within Lancaster County</u>		
Per mile plus trip		
Charge	\$ 2.40	\$2.50
<u>Outside Lancaster County</u>		
Per Hour	\$30.00	\$30.00
Per Mile	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.50
<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

<u>Price/gallon</u>		
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 proposed increases are a significant reduction in the Total Income of the Applicant due to the loss of a large contract, resulting in a reduction of Net income of 66.65% in 2013. The loss of the contract has caused a reduction in the number of trips that the Applicant provides. While this does result in a reduction in actual maintenance costs and fuel expenses, these reductions do not offset the loss of total income, resulting in the reduction in the Net Income of the Applicant.

The Applicant has also seen an increase in rent paid and in insurance costs. Total insurance that the Applicant pays increased eleven percent despite the fact that it is insuring three fewer vehicles than last year.

The changes in the proposed rates are an increase in the in the Lincoln transportation rate from \$25.00 to \$27.00, an increase of eight percent, and an increase in its mileage rate from \$2.40 per mile to \$2.50 per mile, a four percent increase. The hourly charges and Escort/Assistance charges and the fuel surcharge are proposed to remain unchanged. The rate changes proposed are designed to help increase the Total Income to the Applicant in order for it to continue to provide its services as well as provide income to maintain its operations.

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The Applicant also notes that the last increase in its rates was granted in February of 2011, a period of two and one-half years.

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 has shown to the Commission through the information provided that its operations are being negatively impacted due to the reduction of Net Income as well as an increase in expenses such as Insurance and Rent. The reduction in Net Income, if it were to continue, would result in the impairment and possible endangerment of the Applicant's operations.

The Commission does find that the rates should be approved on an emergency basis due to the factors set forth above that 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 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 September 13, 2013.

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 September 13, 2013:

Description	Rate
I. Transportation Rates:	
A. One-way within Lincoln City limits	\$27.00
B. Within Lancaster County (Beyond the corporate limits of Lincoln)	
1. Same as in I-A above, plus	
2. Mileage charge	\$2.50/mi.
C. Outside Lancaster County	
1. Round trip, plus	\$30.00/hr
2. Mileage charge	\$2.50/mi.
II. Escort/Assistance	\$30.00/hr

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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 4th day of September, 2013.

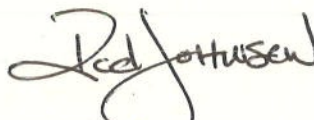

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:




Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director

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