

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) APPLICATION NO. TR-186
Prescription of Reasonable)
Rates and Charges for Motor)
Carriers Passengers and) GRANTED
Property for Hire Subject to)
The provision of Neb. Rev.)
Stat. (Reissue 2006), Chapter)
75, Articles 1 and 3.) ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On May 2, 2011, Action Taxi & Limo Co., Inc, Sioux City, Iowa, filed an application for authority to amend the taxi fares in South Sioux City, Nebraska as follows:

Current Rates	Current	Proposed
Meter Rates:		
A. First 1/10 th mile:	\$1.95	\$2.75
B. Each add. 1/7 mile:	\$0.30	
Each add. 1/11 mile:		\$0.20
C. Cab Hired by the Hour	\$30.00	\$30.00
D. No service charge	\$5.00	\$5.00
E. DHHS per mile	\$1.32	\$1.50

Senior Citizens Ten (10%) discount on any ride over \$4.00

Minimum Charge:

A. Veteran's Bridge to 21 st Street	\$4.00	\$5.00
B. 21 st Street to 39 th Street		\$6.00
C. Best Value Inn		\$10.00
D. Dakota City, NE		\$12.00
E. Lake Village, Atokad, Tomkins Addition and BPI		\$12.00

Wait time \$0.50/min.
\$30.00/hour

Note: The driver will wait for the passenger for seven (7) minutes after arrival at pick-up location. Wait time begins after seven (7) minutes.

The fuel surcharge to be added is as follows:

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<u>Price/Gallon</u>		<u>Surcharge</u>	
\$2.80	\$0.90		\$0
\$3.10	\$1.05		\$0
\$3.40	\$1.20		\$0
\$3.70	\$1.35		\$0
\$4.00	\$1.50		\$0.55
\$4.30	\$1.65		\$0.70
\$4.60	\$1.80		\$0.85
\$4.90	\$1.95		\$1.00

Fuel prices in excess of \$4.90 per gallon will have the surcharge follow the format above with a fifteen cent (\$0.15) increase in the surcharge for every thirty cent (\$0.30) increase in the fuel price.

The application was published in the Daily Record on June 6, 2011. No protests to the application were received.

The proposed changes include an increase in the drop charge from \$1.95 to \$2.75; an increase in the per mile charge from \$2.10 to \$2.20 per mile; an increase in the HHS mileage charge to \$1.50 per mile; the establishment of new minimum charges in four areas; and an adjustment in the fuel surcharge that changes when the fuel surcharge begins.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1382. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers and their baggage by taxicab between points in Dakota County over irregular routes. The last rate change approval for the South Sioux City area was granted in May of 2008.

In support of the application, Luis Nuno, the owner of the applicant, submitted documentation regarding some of the operating expenses of his company. The main area of increased costs is in gasoline. Over the first seven months of 2011, the fuel costs for Action Taxi were \$35,233. During the same time period in 2010, the Applicant listed \$28,555 for fuel costs. This is an increase of twenty-three percent in one year. When compared to 2009, the increase is eighty-seven percent (\$35,233 in 2011; \$18,856 in 2009).

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The other main area of increased costs are in personnel costs. The Applicant uses some contract labor in its operations. In 2010, the total amount of contract labor was \$9,350. In the first half of 2011, contract labor costs have been \$6,852. This amount is on pace to be \$13,704, which would be an increase of forty-six percent. The Applicant also incurred a small increase in payroll taxes of around three percent in the first half of 2011, while also seeing a small decline in workers compensation payments from \$330 to \$27.

The overall effects of the proposed changes are dependent on the cost of fuel. A five mile trip with current gasoline costs of \$3.70 per gallon would rise in total cost from \$13.35 to \$13.85 or 3.7 percent. At \$4.00 per gallon the trips would rise from \$13.50 to \$14.45 or seven percent.

The HHS mileage raise is done pursuant to new contract rates with the Department. HHS is contracting to pay \$1.51 per mile. The Applicant should be placed in a position to take advantage of these rates.

When compared to the cost increases experienced by the Applicant, the proposed increases are reasonable. The Commission finds that the proposed rates are reasonable for the community and justified by the increases in costs. The new rates will apply to all taxicab companies that have authority in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

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 effective October 7, 2011.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective October 7, 2011, the South Sioux City, Nebraska taxi rates be, and it is hereby, amended as follows:

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<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Meter Rates:	
A. First 1/10 th mile:	\$2.75
B. Each add. 1/11 mile:	\$0.20
C. Cab Hired by the Hour	\$30.00
D. No service charge	\$5.00
E. DHHS per mile	\$1.50

Senior Citizens Ten (10%) discount on any ride over \$4.00

Minimum Charge:

A. Veteran's Bridge to 21 st Street	\$5.00
B. 21 st Street to 39 th Street	\$6.00
C. Best Value Inn	\$10.00
D. Dakota City, NE	\$12.00
E. Lake Village, Atokad, Tomkins Addition and BPI	\$12.00

Wait time	\$0.50/min.
	\$30.00/hour

Note: The driver will wait for the passenger for seven (7) minutes after arrival at pick-up location. Wait time begins after seven (7) minutes.

The fuel surcharge to be added is as follows:

<u>Price/Gallon</u>	<u>Surcharge</u>
\$4.00	\$0.55
\$4.30	\$0.70
\$4.60	\$0.85
\$4.90	\$1.00

Fuel prices in excess of \$4.90 per gallon will have the surcharge follow the format above with a fifteen cent (\$0.15) increase in the surcharge for every thirty cent (\$0.30) increase in the fuel price.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that notice of this amendment to their rates be conspicuously displayed within each vehicle and all passengers be notified that the fuel surcharge is in addition to the regular meter fare.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the fuel surcharge be paid to the individual or individuals paying for the fuel.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 27th day of September, 2011.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:







//s// Frank Landis

//s// Tim Schram



Chairman

ATTEST:



Deputy Director