

Decision No. 84000**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
Loren B. Joplin, doing business in
the name and style of SUBURBAN
COMMUTER SERVICE, for an ex-parte
order for authority to increase
fares.

Application No. 54762
(Filed March 28, 1974;
amended May 6, 1974)

O P I N I O N

Loren B. Joplin, dba Suburban Commuter Service, conducts a passenger stage service over four routes between Simi Valley, on the one hand, and Los Angeles, Zuma Beach, and Del Mar Race Track, on the other hand. By this application applicant seeks authority to increase, on five days' notice, fares on the Simi Valley - downtown Los Angeles route.

Applicant has served copies of its application and amendment on the cities of Simi Valley and Los Angeles, and the counties of Los Angeles and Ventura. The application and amendment were noticed in the Commission's Daily Calendar of March 29 and May 7, 1974. No objections to the requested rate increases have been received.

Applicant seeks to adjust its fares between Simi Valley and Los Angeles as follows:

<u>Between</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Intra-Simi Valley	\$.30	\$.30
" " 40 rides	10.00	10.00
Simi Valley-Chatsworth	.75	1.00
" " 10 rides	9.00	9.00
Simi Valley-Los Angeles (child)	.75	1.00
" " (adult)	1.25	1.50
" " 10 rides	11.25	13.75

In support of its application, applicant cites higher fuel and maintenance costs. The higher operating costs resulted in an operating loss for the year 1973.

The Transportation Division staff has prepared a study and report of estimated results of operation, which is received as Exhibit 1. The report shows that applicant, will have an estimated profit of \$1,425 in 1975 and an operating ratio of 92.3 percent at the proposed level of fares. Those estimates do not include an allowance for the value of labor performed by the Joplin family. The staff estimated \$12,000 as the approximate equivalent value of such labor. If the results of operation included the allowance for labor, the loss at the present fares would be \$5,850, and at the proposed rate level, \$2,450.

Subsequent to the filing of this application, applicant received authority to serve the Wilshire District of Los Angeles, Zuma Beach, and the Del Mar Race Track. The staff report observes that the new Zuma Beach service is well patronized, and the Wilshire District and Del Mar operations have good potential. The staff recommends that the application be granted.

Findings

1. Applicant's present rates between Simi Valley and Los Angeles do not provide revenues sufficient to meet expenses incurred in providing service as a common carrier of passengers.
2. The staff estimated operating results under the proposed rates are reasonable for ratemaking purposes.
3. The proposed increase in rates has been shown to be justified.
4. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that Application No. 54762 should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Loren B. Joplin, dba Suburban Commuter Service, is authorized to establish the increased fares proposed in Application No. 54762. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order shall be filed not earlier than the effective date of this order and may be made effective not earlier than five days after the effective date of this order on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. The authority shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.

3. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in its buses and terminals a printed explanation of its fares. Such notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st
day of JANUARY, 1975.

Vernon L. Stevenson
President
William Spence Jr.
[Signature]

Commissioners