

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 86842

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMUTE SERVICE, INC., for)
 the Authority to Increase Weekly) Application No. 56868
 Fare, Toll and Charge to Passengers.) (Filed November 12, 1976)

O P I N I O N

Commute Service, Inc. (CSI) operates service as a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC-862) between the Cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Fremont, Newark, Hayward, Milpitas and the northern part of the City of San Jose within three air miles of the city limits of Milpitas, on the one hand, and the United Airlines Maintenance Base (UAMB) located at the San Francisco International Airport, on the other hand.

The service is of the "home-to-work" character, providing commute transportation between the respective residential neighborhoods and the place of employment at UAMB.

By this application, CSI requests authority to increase its fares by five cents to 12½ cents per ride. An increase of \$20,400 in annual passenger revenue is estimated by applicant to accrue due to this request, resulting in a operating ratio of 98 percent before taxes.

The comparison of charges for the present bi-weekly fare and the proposed 20 one-way tickets is as follows:

<u>Between UAMB and:</u>	<u>Present Two Week Fare</u>	<u>Proposed Charge for 20 one-way Tickets</u>
Hayward	\$15.00	\$16.50
Newark/Fremont	16.00	18.50
Milpitas/North San Jose	17.00	19.00
Livermore/Pleasanton	18.00	19.00

In support of this request, CSI cites the following changes to justify the increase since the last fare increase in May 1975:

1. Drivers' wages increased which amounts to an additional annual figure of \$3,432.
2. Fuel cost increased approximately 12 percent since the last fare increase.
3. An increase in annual insurance expense of \$3,000 occurred in spite of changing to a minimum coverage policy.
4. A new ticketing system was recently initiated by applicant whereby 20 one-way trip tickets are good until used. This was done to remain competitive, but it resulted in a total revenue decrease of approximately \$12,000 per year.

The proposed fares of CSI between approximately the same places are comparable to the recently authorized fare structure of Whippet Charter Service, Inc. in Decision 86587 (A. 56455).

Copies of this application were served on interested parties and the application was listed in the Commission's Daily Calendar on November 16, 1976. Additionally, the Commission staff notified affected public transit operators and planning agencies of the receipt of this application, pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. No protest or comments have been received.

The Transportation Division staff recommends that the application be granted by ex parte order.

After consideration, the Commission finds that the requested fare increases are justified. A public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Commute Service, Inc. is authorized to establish the increased fares as set forth in the application. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order 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. This 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 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 11th
day of JANUARY, 1937

Robert Balmain

President

William Sproule, Jr.

Leonard

Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.