

Decision No. 87197**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of)SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUTER BUS)
SERVICE, INC., doing business as)
COM-BUS, for authority to increase)
certain rates to McDonnell Douglas)
Astronautics Company to Huntington)
Beach, California.)Application No. 56863
(Filed November 12, 1976)

Applicant.)

O P I N I O N

Southern California Commuter Bus Service, Inc., (COM-BUS) operates service as a Passenger Stage Corporation (PSC-943) along several routes in Southern California. The service is of the "home-to-work" character, providing commute transportation from residential neighborhoods to several large places of employment in the greater Los Angeles area.

By this application, COM-BUS seeks authority to increase its weekly passenger fares on certain of its routes, as follows:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Between McDonnell Douglas (Huntington Beach) and</u>	<u>Weekly Fare</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
3 and 3 Alt	San Fernando Valley	\$13.75	\$16.00
4	San Fernando Valley	13.75	16.00
1	West Los Angeles, Culver City, Westchester	11.50	14.50
5	El Segundo, Torrance	11.40	13.75

In support of this application, COM-BUS cites increases in several of its operating expenses. The largest expense increase incurred is the cost of leasing the buses used to operate these routes. The increase in expense is estimated to be \$9,100 per year. COM-BUS also reports a decrease in passenger traffic on these four routes from 164 passengers in the historic base year 1975 to an average of 142.2 at present due to reductions in employment at the McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company. This drop in patronage has caused a corresponding drop in gross revenues. The proposed fare increase will result in an increase of approximately \$8,700 in annual revenue over the base year level.

It has come to the Commission's attention that COM-BUS may have been requesting and/or requiring passengers to remit "voluntary contributions" or "vacation charges" in addition to the authorized fares for transportation they wish to purchase for intended use. A common carrier should not for any reason request or require passengers to remit compensation other than that tendered to purchase transportation at fares authorized by this Commission. To do so would in effect constitute an unauthorized fare increase in violation of Public Utilities Code Section 454. Consistent with this, a common carrier should not in any way penalize passengers for failure to remit monies or purchase transportation for any period of time they do not wish to ride. The order that follows will reflect these considerations.

It appears that applicant's tariffs on file with this Commission may not accurately and completely reflect its present passenger stage operations, and the order will accordingly require applicant to file new tariffs. Both fare collection and tariff items provided for herein have been discussed with and agreed to by the applicant.

This application was listed in the Commission's calendar. Additionally, the Commission staff notified affected public transit operators and planning agencies of the receipt of this application pursuant to Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. No comments or protests to the application have been received.

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The proposed fare increase of approximately 20% would result in additional annual revenues in the amount of \$8,700 over the historic level existing in 1975.
2. The proposed fare increase is justified.
3. The fare increase should be conditioned as set forth in the order below.
4. A public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. COM-BUS is authorized to establish the increased fares as requested in A. 56863.
2. COM-BUS shall file new tariffs with this Commission. The new tariffs shall specifically describe each route and designate all locations at which passengers may board and disembark. COM-BUS shall also file new timetables setting forth the times and days at which these stops are made. These new tariffs and timetables shall reflect all operations of COM-BUS and the carrier shall henceforth make revised tariff and timetable filings in the prescribed manner prior to implementing any change in its passenger stage service.
3. Tariff and timetable publications made pursuant to Ordering Paragraphs 1 and 2 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.
4. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting 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.

5. COM-BUS shall henceforth not request or accept any monies from its passengers other than the fares authorized by this Commission, nor require passengers to pay for transportation during periods that they do not intend to utilize said service.

6. COM-BUS shall refund any monies it may have received from passengers in the past where such monies were not voluntarily paid to purchase transportation at fares authorized by this Commission.

7. Acceptance of the fare increases granted by Ordering Paragraph No. 1 is conditioned on acceptance of this order in its entirety, and the authorized fare increases shall not be instituted until five days after acceptance of applicant's new tariff and timetable filings pursuant to Ordering Paragraphs 2 and 3.

8. This authority shall expire unless the authorized fare increases are established within ninety days of the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 12th day of APRIL, 1977.

Salvatore
Robert W. Novella
Commissioner

Robert Bateman
President
William J. Agnew Jr.
Vernon L. Stenger
Leonard Nor
Commissioners