

T/ctb

Decision 93179 JUN 2 1981

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
Joanne D. Smith, dba Smith's Charter  
Bus Service for authority to increase  
fares for the transportation of pass-  
engers on regular scheduled routes in  
Santa Clara, Alameda and San Francisco  
Counties under original Application  
# 45892 Decision # 66776 dated 2/11/64.

Application 60530  
(Filed May 7, 1981)

O P I N I O N

Applicant is authorized to operate several passenger stage routes to the United Air Lines Maintenance Base (UALMB) at San Francisco International Airport, and to points in Sunnyvale, California. The routes operate on schedules convenient for passengers' commutation purposes.

By this application, applicant seeks to increase passenger fares from \$20.00 to \$36.00 for a two-week ticket. Passengers have been transported on these routes since 1976 without any fare increases. Since then, applicant states that there have been dramatic increases in operating costs, including fuel (from 39¢ to \$1.05 per gallon), mechanic's labor (hourly rate is double that of 1976), and parts (similar increases in cost). Applicant states that these routes have been operating at a loss for several years, so that the fare increase is needed to return these routes to a viable economic footing.

Applicant also seeks authority to modify the tariff for these routes to provide that tickets will be honored for each two-week period and will expire thereafter. Presently, tickets lack an expiration date.

Applicant states that the regular passengers will not be adversely affected by this modification and that it is needed to ensure the consistency of revenues.

Exhibit C attached to the application shows an annualized operating ratio of 173.9%, with a loss of \$29,255, for the year ending December 31, 1980. Exhibit E projects that with the requested relief, this operating ratio will be 99.1% with a profit of \$625 for a rate year ending June 30, 1982.

Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar, and applicant served copies of the application on interested parties. The Transportation Division staff notified public transportation operators and planning agencies of this filing, under Public Utilities Code Sections 730.3 and 730.5. No protests have been received. A public hearing is not necessary. Since there is an immediate need for this fare adjustment, the order should be made effective today.

Findings of Fact

1. Applicant is a passenger stage corporation transporting passengers over specified routes in the Counties of Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara.

2. Applicant's present fares for such service resulted in a loss for the year 1980 of \$29,255. A projected profit of \$625 is expected for the year ending June 30, 1982 with the requested relief.

3. Applicant is in need of the requested relief. The fares proposed will not be excessive.

4. The requested increases in fares and the requested tariff modification are justified.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application should be granted.

2. A public hearing is not necessary.

3. Because of the demonstrated urgent need for additional revenue, the order should be effective today.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Joanne D. Smith is authorized to establish the increased fares and rule change proposed in Application 60530. Tariffs shall be filed not earlier than the effective date of this order. They may go into effect 5 days or more after the effective date of this order on not less than 5 days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. The authority shall expire unless exercised within 90 days after the effective date of this order.

3. In addition to posting and filing tariffs, applicant shall post a printed explanation of the fares and rule change in her buses and terminals. The notice shall be posted at least 5 days before the effective date of the fare and rule changes and shall remain posted for at least 30 days.

This order is effective today.

Dated JUN 2 1981, at San Francisco, California.

Jul E. Boyce  
President  
Richard D. Smith  
Lawrence P. Smith  
Victor Calvo

Commissioners

Commissioner Priscilla C. Grew, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.