

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET TC-151070
	)	
Pacific Northwest Transportation	)	ORDER 01
Services, Inc., dba Capital Aeroporter	)	
Airport Shuttle	)	ORDER GRANTING
	)	FORBEARANCE FROM RATE
Requesting Forbearance from Rate and	)	AND SERVICE REGULATION AS
Service Regulation as an Auto	)	AN AUTO TRANSPORTATION
Transportation Company Under	)	COMPANY FOR SPECIFIED
RCW 81.68.015	)	SERVICES
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 18, 2015, Pacific Northwest Transportation Services, Inc., dba Capital Aeroporter Airport Shuttle (Pacific or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting forbearance from rate and service regulation as an auto transportation company for certain specified services. Pacific proposes to provide door-to-door auto transportation services between Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties and (1) Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, CenturyLink Field, Safeco Field Tacoma Dome for Sporting Shows and Events, Boat Shows and Events, Home Shows and Events, RV Shows and Events, Golf Shows and Events; and (2) Sporting Events, Concerts, Casinos, Golf Courses, Wineries and Performing Arts Theaters in Washington. Pacific requests that the Commission forbear from rate and service regulation of the Company for provision of these services under RCW 81.68.015.
  
- 2 RCW 81.68.015 states that Commission authority over transportation companies “does not apply to service carrying passengers for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route if the Commission finds, with or without a hearing, that the service does not serve an essential transportation purpose, is solely for recreation, and would not adversely affect the operations of the holder of a certificate under this chapter, and that exemption from this chapter is otherwise in the public interest.”
  
- 3 If the Commission grants forbearance from rate and service regulation for these services, the Company would provide them under its existing charter permit (CH-58) pursuant to RCW 81.70.

- 4 The Commission published Pacific's forbearance request on May 19, 2015, seeking public comment. The Commission received no comment.
- 5 Commission Staff's analysis concludes that Pacific's proposed transportation services between Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties and (1) Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, CenturyLink Field, Safeco Field Tacoma Dome for Sporting Shows and Events, Boat Shows and Events, Home Shows and Events, RV Shows and Events, Golf Shows and Events; and (2) Sporting Events, Concerts, Casinos, Golf Courses, Wineries and Performing Arts Theaters in Washington do not serve an essential transportation purpose, do not adversely affect any existing auto transportation companies, and are for recreational purposes.
- 6 Considering all the facts and information presented in Pacific's petition, Staff concludes the Company's request is in the public interest and recommends the Commission grant the Company's petition for relief from rate and service regulation as an auto transportation company for the specified services.

### **DISCUSSION**

- 7 We agree with Staff's analysis. The proposed services do not serve an essential transportation purpose, do not adversely affect any existing auto transportation companies, and are for recreational purposes. Particularly when viewed in the context of the Commission's reduced regulation of auto transportation companies, forbearing from regulating Pacific's provisioning of the services the Company identifies in its petition is consistent with the statute and the public interest.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, and practices of public service companies including auto transportation companies.
- 9 (2) The services Pacific proposes fall within the scope of services provided by an auto transportation company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

- 10 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2015.
- 11 (4) Pacific requests forbearance from rate and service regulation as an auto transportation company for these services under RCW 81.68.015.
- 12 (5) After review and analysis of the petition for an exemption filed by Pacific in this docket and due consideration of all facts presented by the Company's petition and the criteria in RCW 81.68.015, the Commission finds that the services Pacific proposes to provide do not serve an essential transportation purpose, do not adversely affect any other auto transportation company, and are for recreational purposes. The Commission concludes that forbearance from rate and service regulation of Pacific's provisioning of these services is in the public interest and should be granted.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 13 (1) The Petition of Pacific Northwest Transportation Services, Inc., dba Capital Aeroporter, Requesting Forbearance from Rate and Service Regulation as an Auto Transportation Company under RCW 81.68.015 for the provision of certain specified services is GRANTED.
- 14 (2) The Commission will forbear from rate and service regulation of Pacific Northwest Transportation Services, Inc., dba Capital Aeroporter proposed service between Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties and (1) Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Greater Tacoma Convention Center, CenturyLink Field, Safeco Field Tacoma Dome for Sporting Shows and Events, Boat Shows and Events, Home Shows and Events, RV Shows and Events, Golf Shows and Events; and (2) Sporting Events, Concerts, Casinos, Golf Courses, Wineries and Performing Arts Theaters in Washington.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order and reissue Pacific Northwest Transportation Services, Inc., dba Capital Aeroporter charter permit (CH-58).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary