

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND |) | DOCKET TC-112072 |
| TRANSPORTATION |) | |
| COMMISSION, |) | ORDER 01 |
| |) | |
| Complainant, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | |
| |) | |
| SHUTTLE EXPRESS, INC., C-975 |) | |
| |) | COMPLAINT AND ORDER |
| Respondent. |) | SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS |
| |) | |

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 2, 2011, Shuttle Express, Inc. (Shuttle Express or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) revisions to its Tariff No. 7, Pages 1, 3, 7 through 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 39, with a stated effective date of January 3, 2012. The proposed tariff revisions would generate \$512,180 (4 percent) in additional annual revenue. Fares for door-to-door service to and from SeaTac Airport would increase by \$0.75 (2 percent) each way. Fares for service between downtown Seattle hotels and SeaTac Airport would increase by 13 percent. The Company provides passenger transportation service to and from SeaTac Airport for over 400,000 customers in Pierce, King, Snohomish and Island Counties annually.
- 2 The Company filed these rate increases to offset operating cost increases since its last rate increase became effective in February of 2008. The Company also proposes to change the application of children’s fares from under 12 years of age to under 18 years of age.
- 3 Because the proposed increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Shuttle Express has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, Staff recommends the Commission suspend the filing and, if necessary, hold public hearings to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including auto transportation companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 81.01 RCW; Chapter 81.04 RCW; Chapter 81.28 RCW and Chapter 81.77 RCW.*
- 5 (2) Shuttle Express is an auto transportation company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 29, 2011.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Shuttle Express on December 2, 2011, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Shuttle Express, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Shuttle Express has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 81.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Shuttle Express' books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Shuttle Express' property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Shuttle Express' operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 81.04.130, Shuttle Express bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (8) Shuttle Express may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 81.20 RCW.

ORDER

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions filed on December 2, 2011, are suspended.

- 13 (2) The Commission may hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Shuttle Express, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Shuttle Express, Inc.'s, books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Shuttle Express, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 81.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 29, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner